

Children in the Wake of Terrorism and Natural Disaster

Students Respond in Prose, Poetry and Art

A Presentation of the Connecticut Commission on Children

January 2006



Introduction

For four years now, September 11 has been a major backdrop in the development of our children. More recently, Hurricane Katrina has become an all-too-vivid memory of natural disaster for them. How they incorporate the images and information from both of these events will influence their world view.

The Connecticut Commission on Children, the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security, and the state Department of Education invited students to share their thoughts on terrorism, homeland security, and safety through prose, poetry and art. Poets, writers, teachers, parents, state leaders, and others read more than 2,300 selections.

Following are some of the most evocative, revealing, and thoughtful of those submissions. We hope you find them as moving and inspirational as we did.

Elaine Zimmerman
Executive Director
Connecticut Commission on Children

www.cga.ct.gov/coc

Anthony Barroso

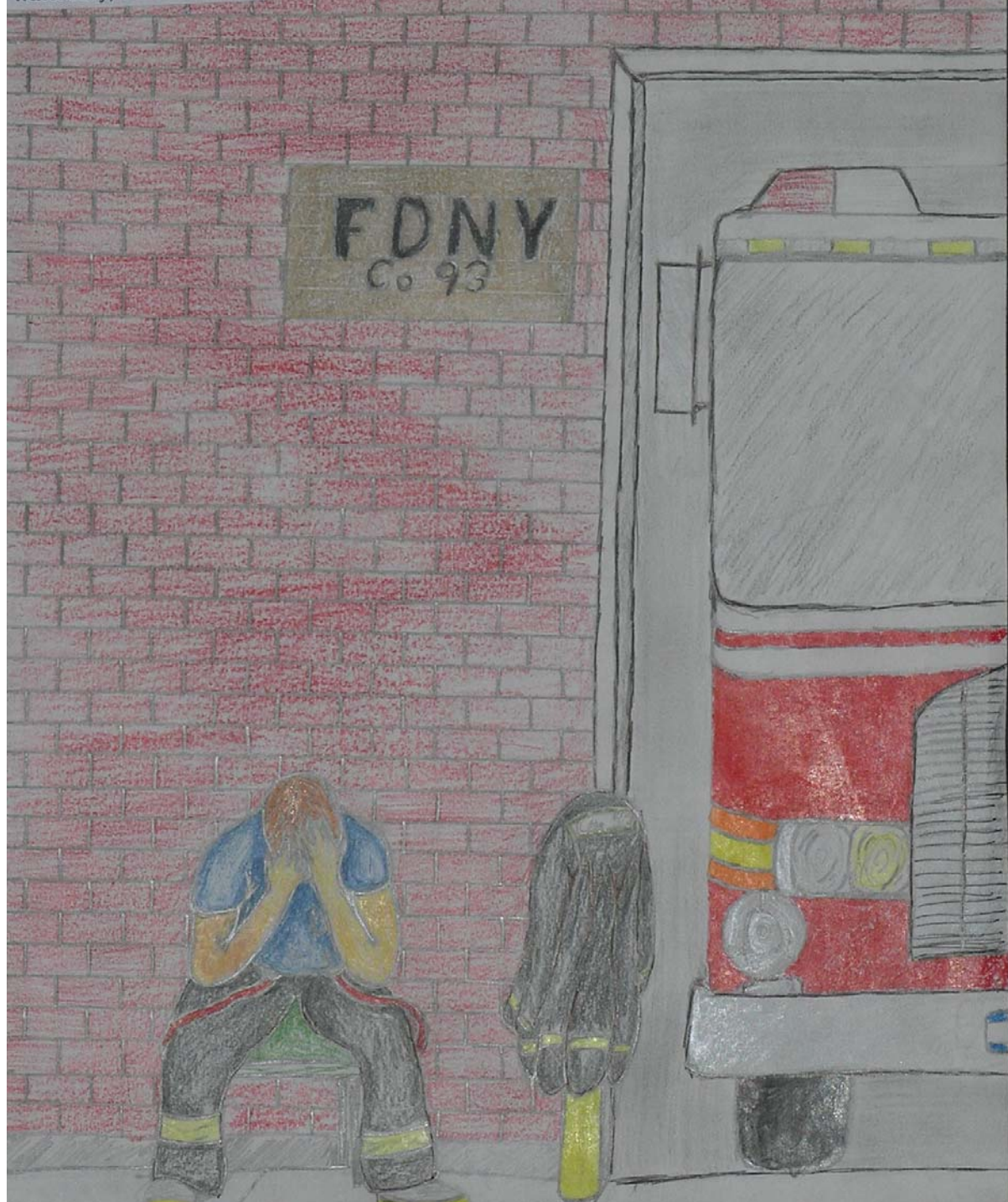
Grade 7
New Haven



Our world is becoming so dysfunctional: hate and bullying from young people, hurricanes destroying everything, and pollution and fires. The world is tearing apart so people need to get their heads straight and save the world.

Rod Leferrier
Grade 12,
Waterbury

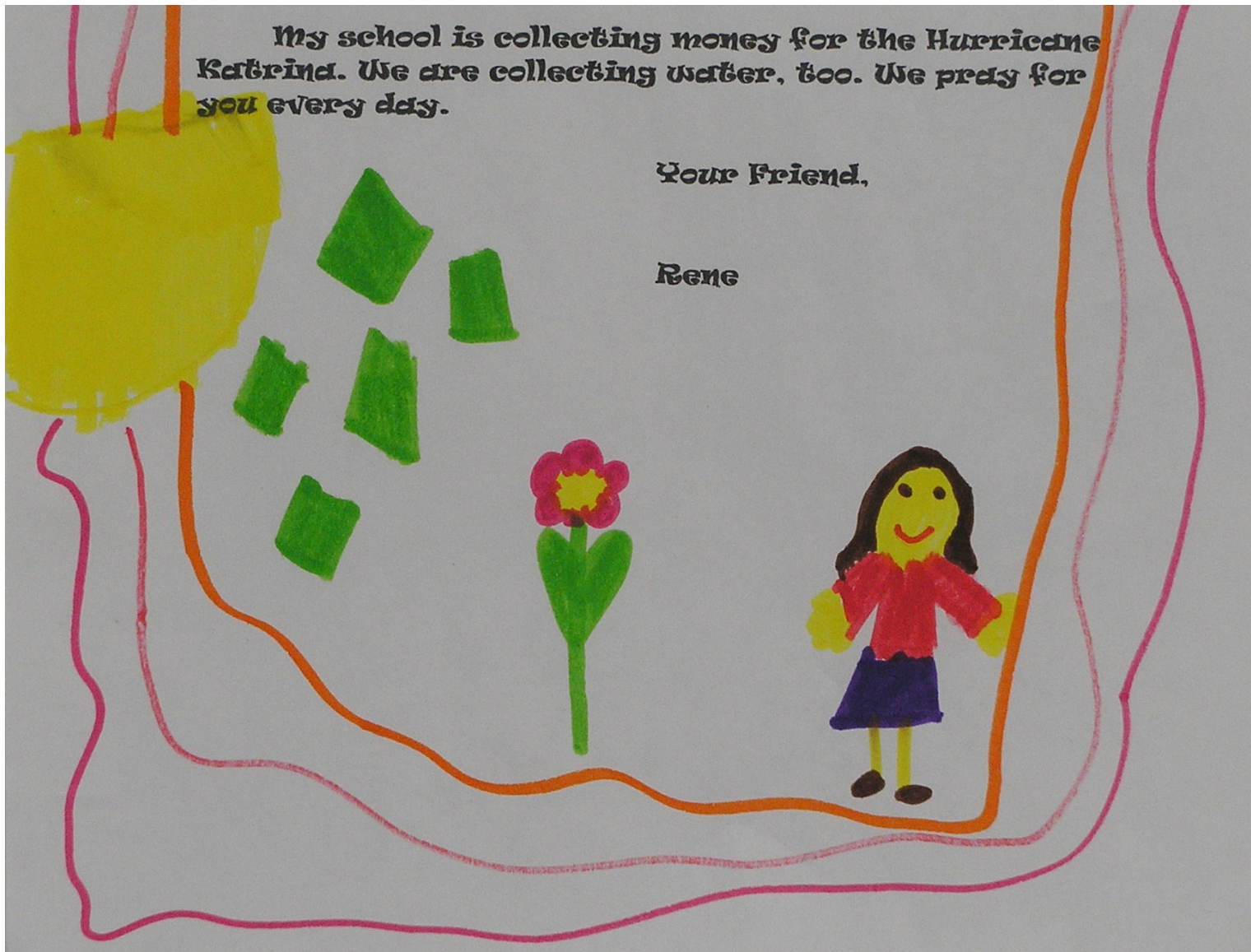
"Never
Forget"



My school is collecting money for the Hurricane Katrina. We are collecting water, too. We pray for you every day.

Your Friend,

Rene



Rene Rossman
Grade 3, Brookfield

"Letter to a Child Affected by
Hurricane Katrina"

Sara Brancaforte
Grade 10, Coventry
"Optimism in Tragedy"



Sara Brancaforte
10th grade
Coventry High School
78 Ripley Hill Road
Coventry, CT 06238

Shannon Reis Grade 12, Windsor

The World Today...

Fear of terrorism/war

Discrimination against the
handicapped/mentally challenged

Presence of narcotics and alcohol

Constant Dishonesty

Threats/violence

Questionable safety

Innocence of a child

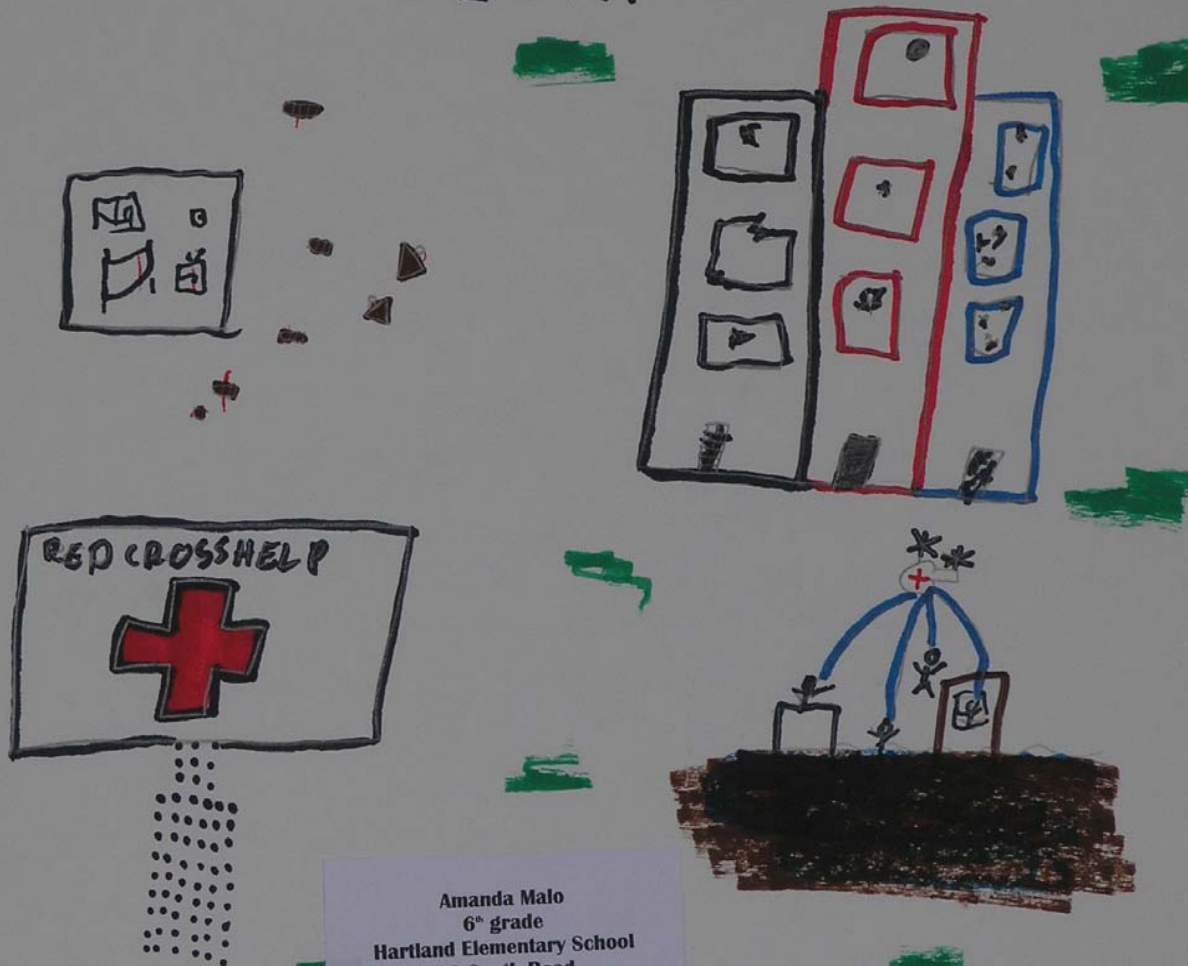
The ray of hope



Amanda Malo

Grade 6, Hartland

DESTRUCTION



Amanda Malo
6th grade
Hartland Elementary School
30 South Road
Hartland, Ct 06027

My 10 Words:

1. Red Cross
2. Death
3. Life
4. Help
5. Safe
6. Water
7. Clothes
8. Toys
9. Fun
10. Everything
GONE

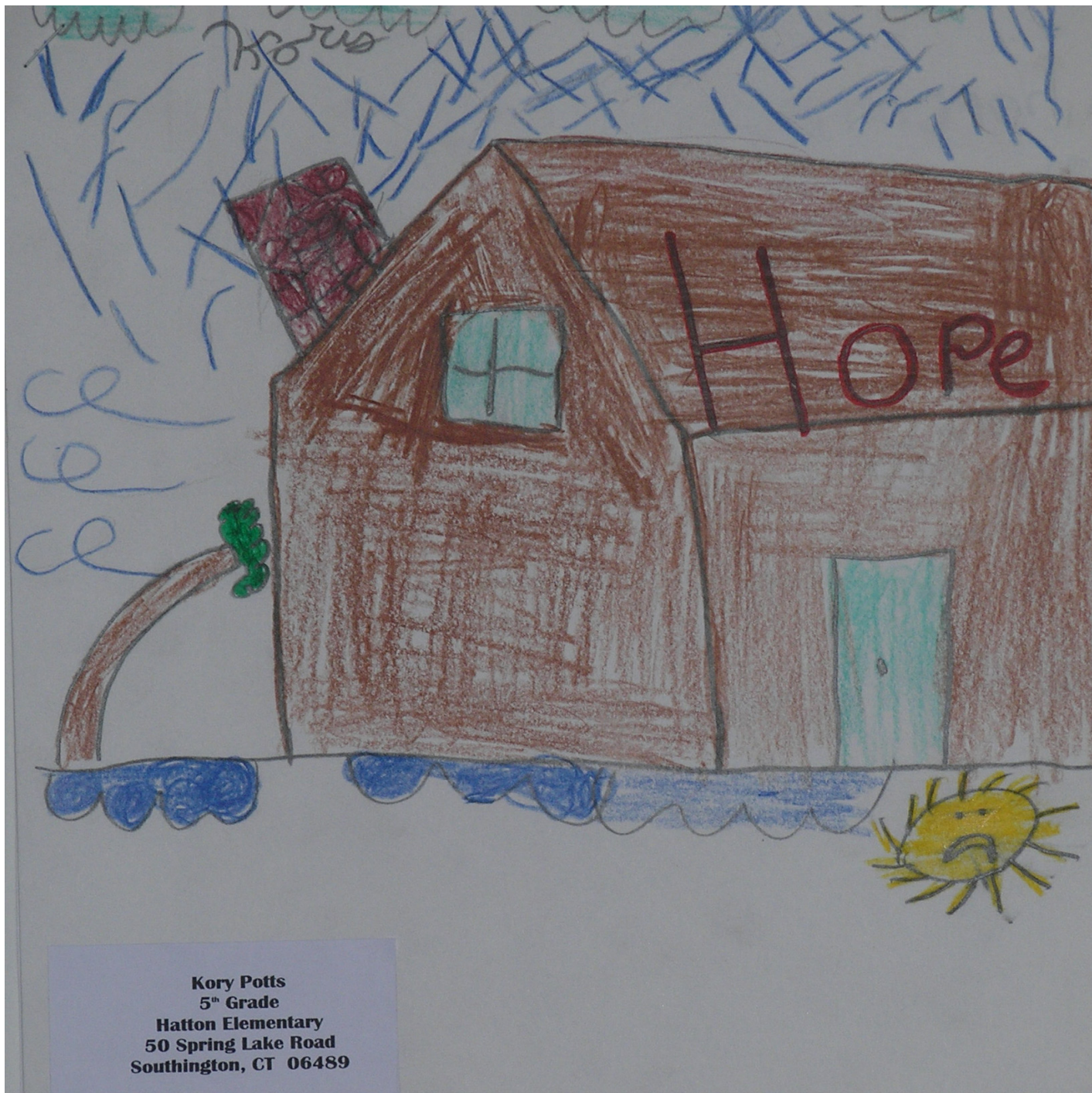
Kory Potts

Grade 5,
Southington

"Hurricane"

My 10 Words:

1. Hopefulness
2. Happiness
3. Sadness
4. Food
5. Help
6. Savior
7. People
8. Tears
9. Hope
10. Destruction



Kory Potts
5th Grade
Hatton Elementary
50 Spring Lake Road
Southington, CT 06489

Jessica Seixas
Grade 7, Stratford
"Katrina Rescue Work"



"I felt sad when Katrina hit New Orleans. I decided to do this project to express my feelings for this disaster. This picture is about all the damage of this disaster."

"Our World"

Zach Campbell
Grade 8, East Haven

My 10 Words:

1. Poverty
2. Racism
3. War
4. Hatred
5. Fighting
6. Money
7. Selfish
8. Death
9. Unprepared
10. Protective

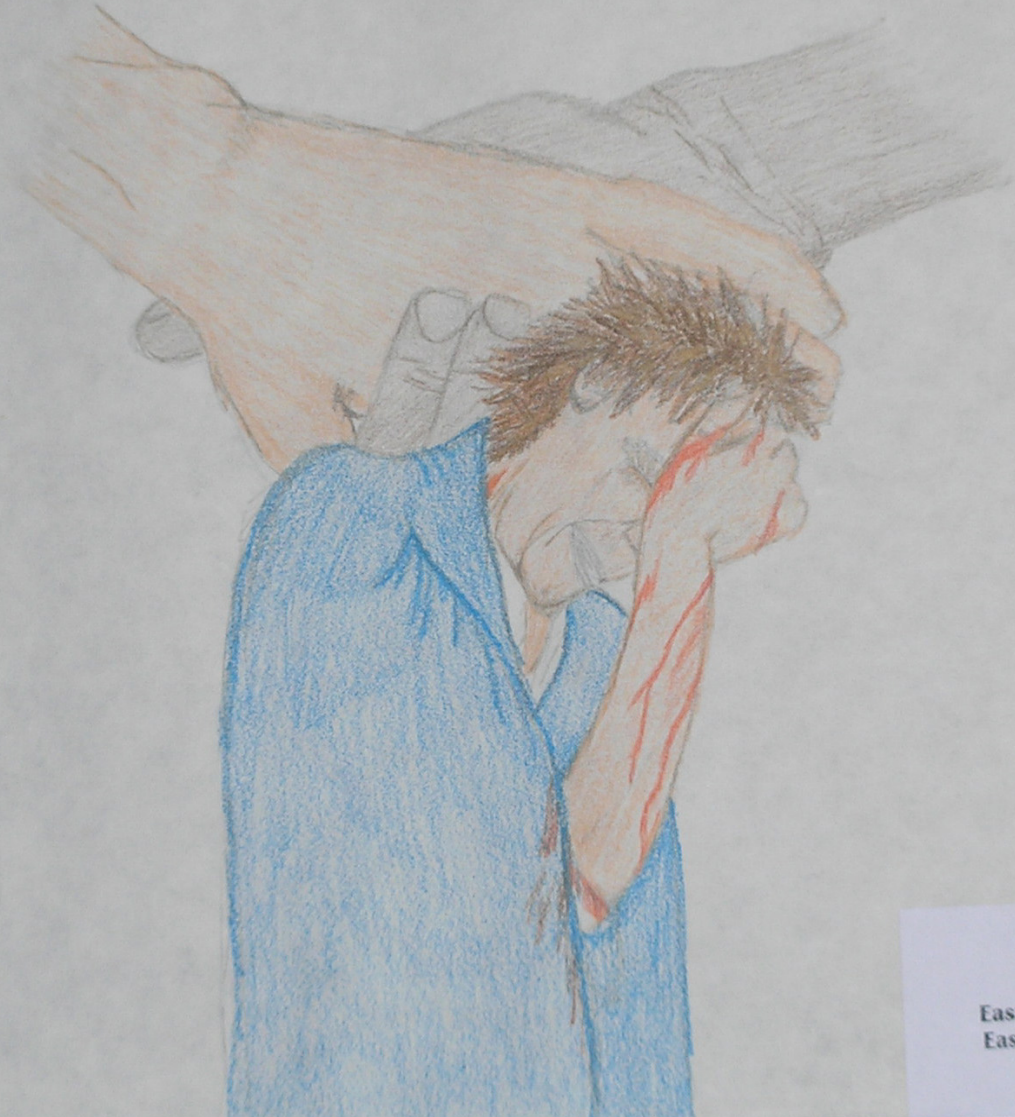


Drew
McMahon
Grade 12,

East
Hampton

"Tragic"

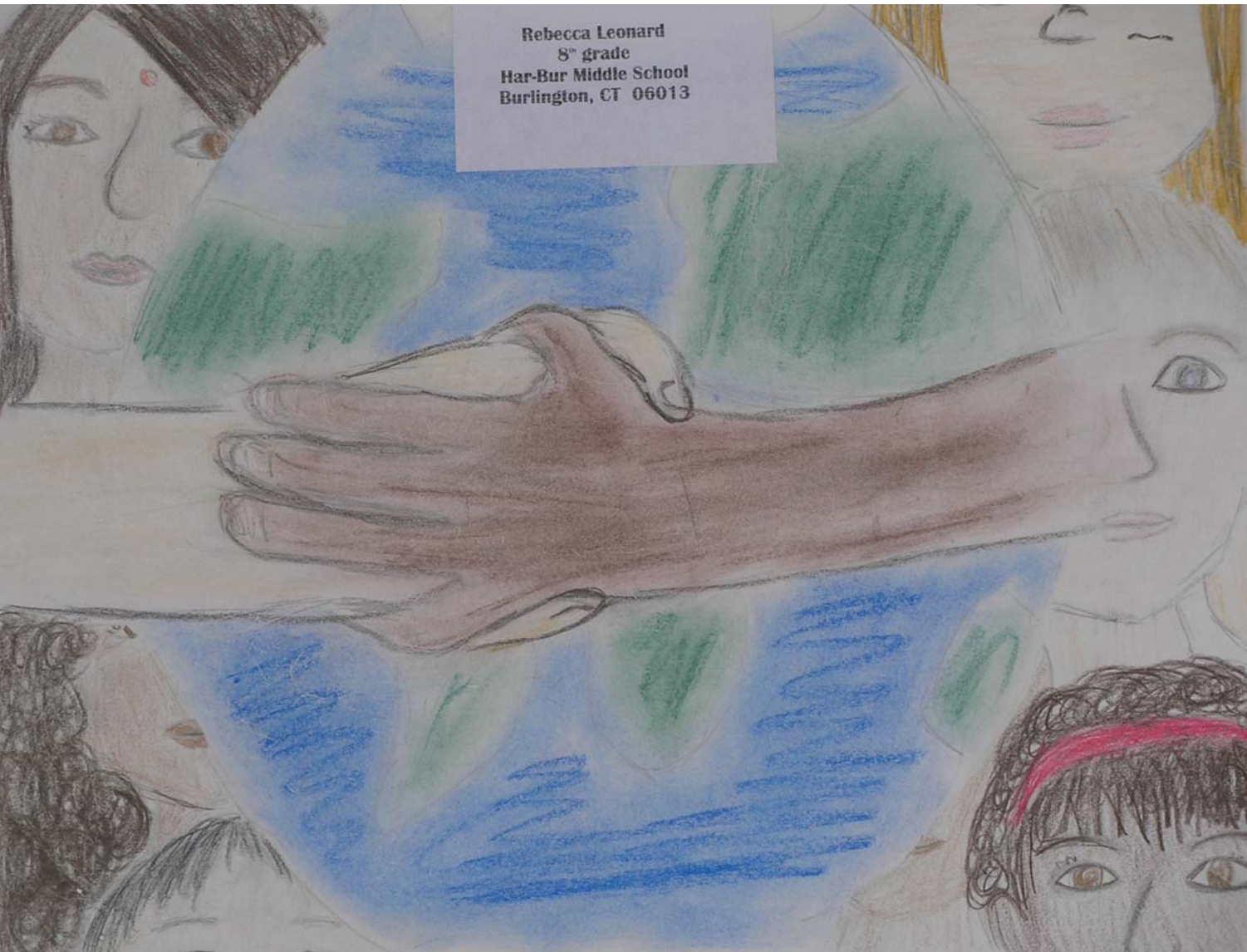
Sept. 11 2001



Drew McMahon
"Tragic"
12th grade
East Hampton High School
East Hampton, CT 06424

Rebecca Leonard

Grade 8, Burlington



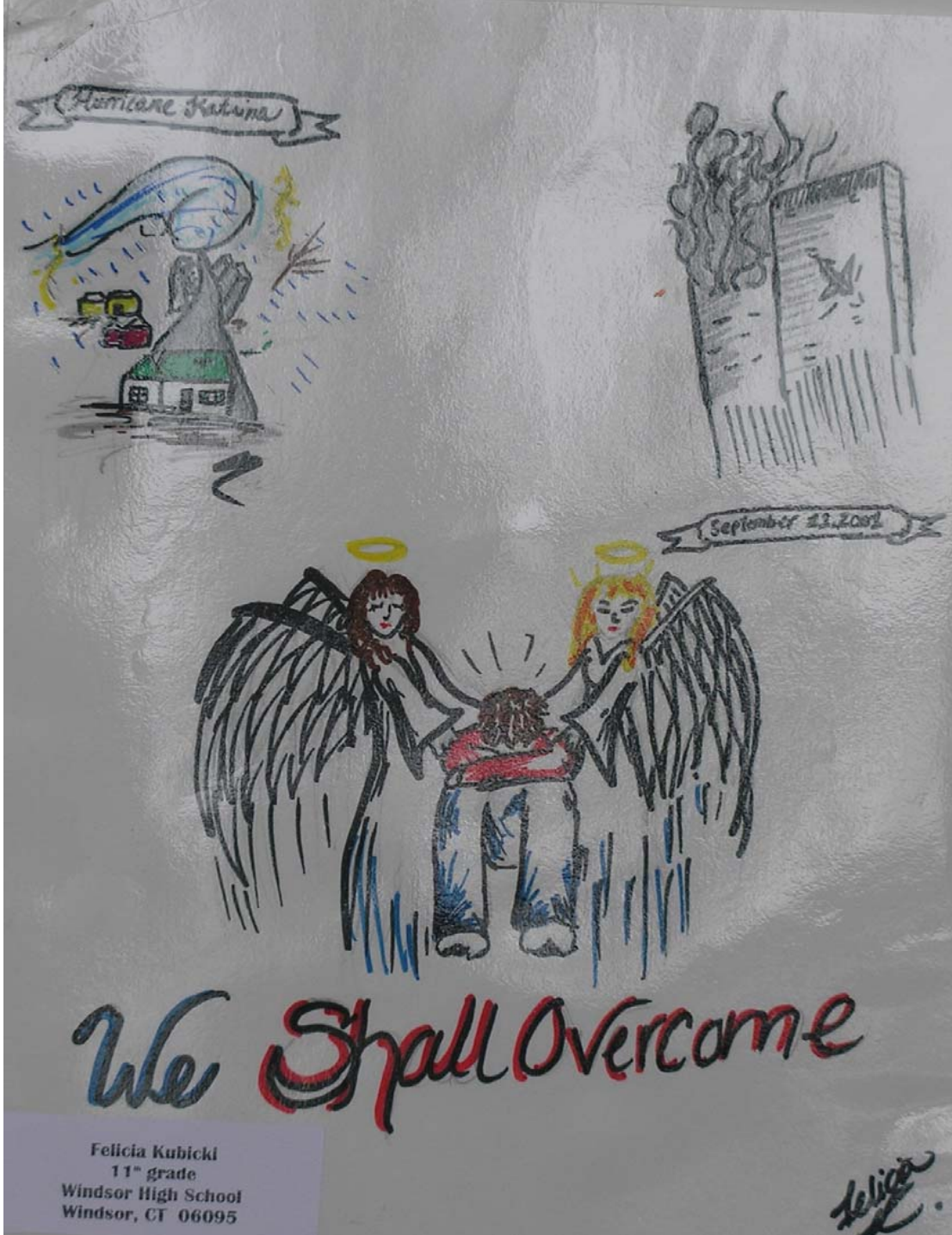
My 10 Words:

1. Diversity
2. Life
3. Harmony
4. Unique
5. Unity
6. World
7. Countries
8. Culture
9. Differences
10. Love

Felicia
Kubicki

Grade 11,
Windsor

"We Shall
Overcome"



We're All Different,
But It Doesn't Mean We
Shouldn't Help Each Other



Natasha
Golouchenko
Grade 4,
Coventry

"We're all
different, but it
doesn't mean we
shouldn't help each
other."

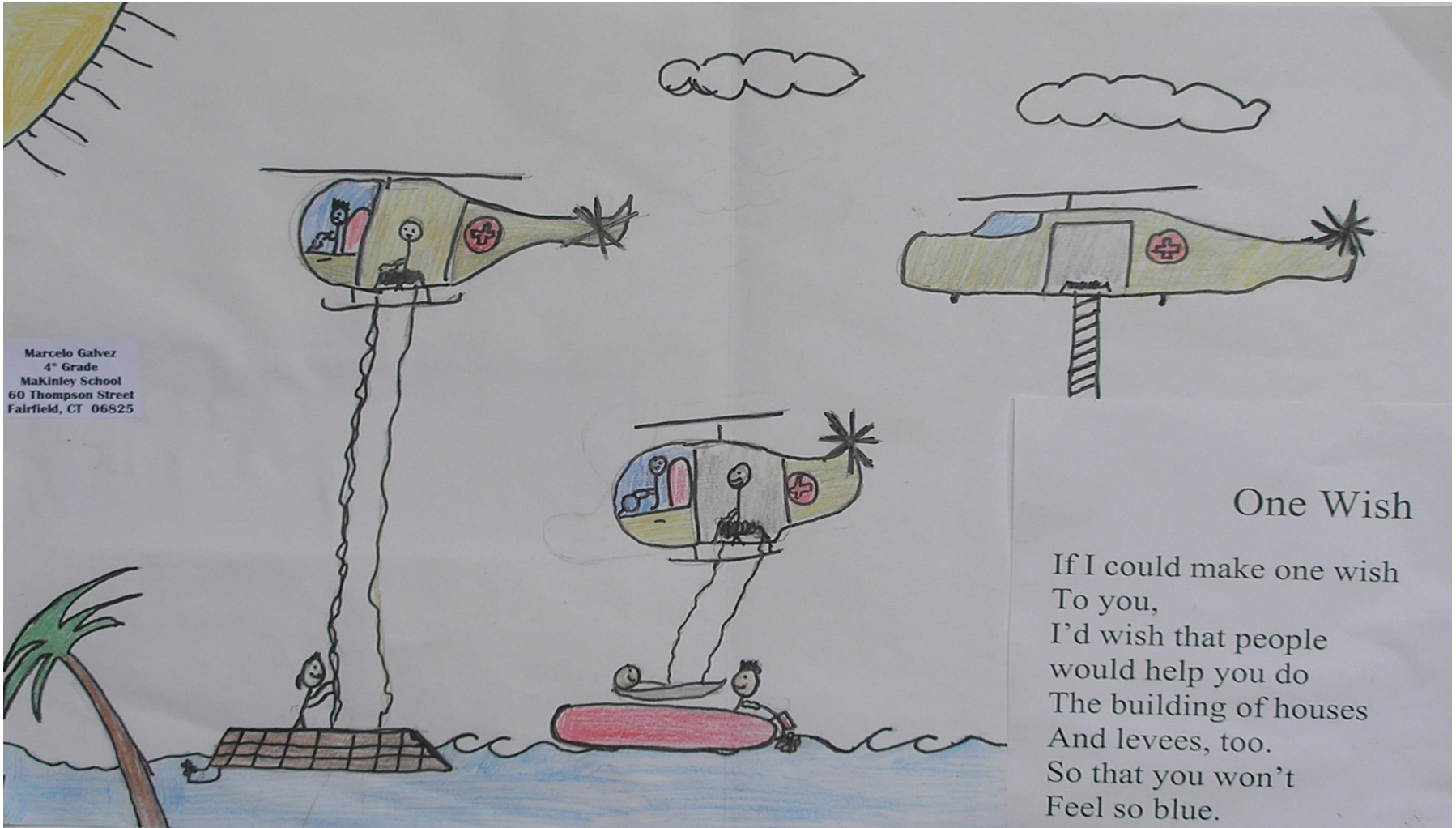
Meredith Richardson
Grade 7, New Fairfield
"Cayman Angel"



"...What is being said in my painting is that an angel, a fish, and the person looking at it shown here as a little reflection of them, all at once, are all equal in this way, all a part of each other..."

Marcelo Galvez

Grade 4, Fairfield



"If I could make on wish to you, I'd wish that people would help you do the building of houses and levees, too. So that you won't feel so blue."

Jonathan Henault

Grade 6, Brooklyn



"If you were to look down upon the world today, you would see a world divided by wars and natural disaster...you would think there is little hope...Even though there is a lot of bad in the world, we have to believe there is more good. We have to believe in tomorrow."

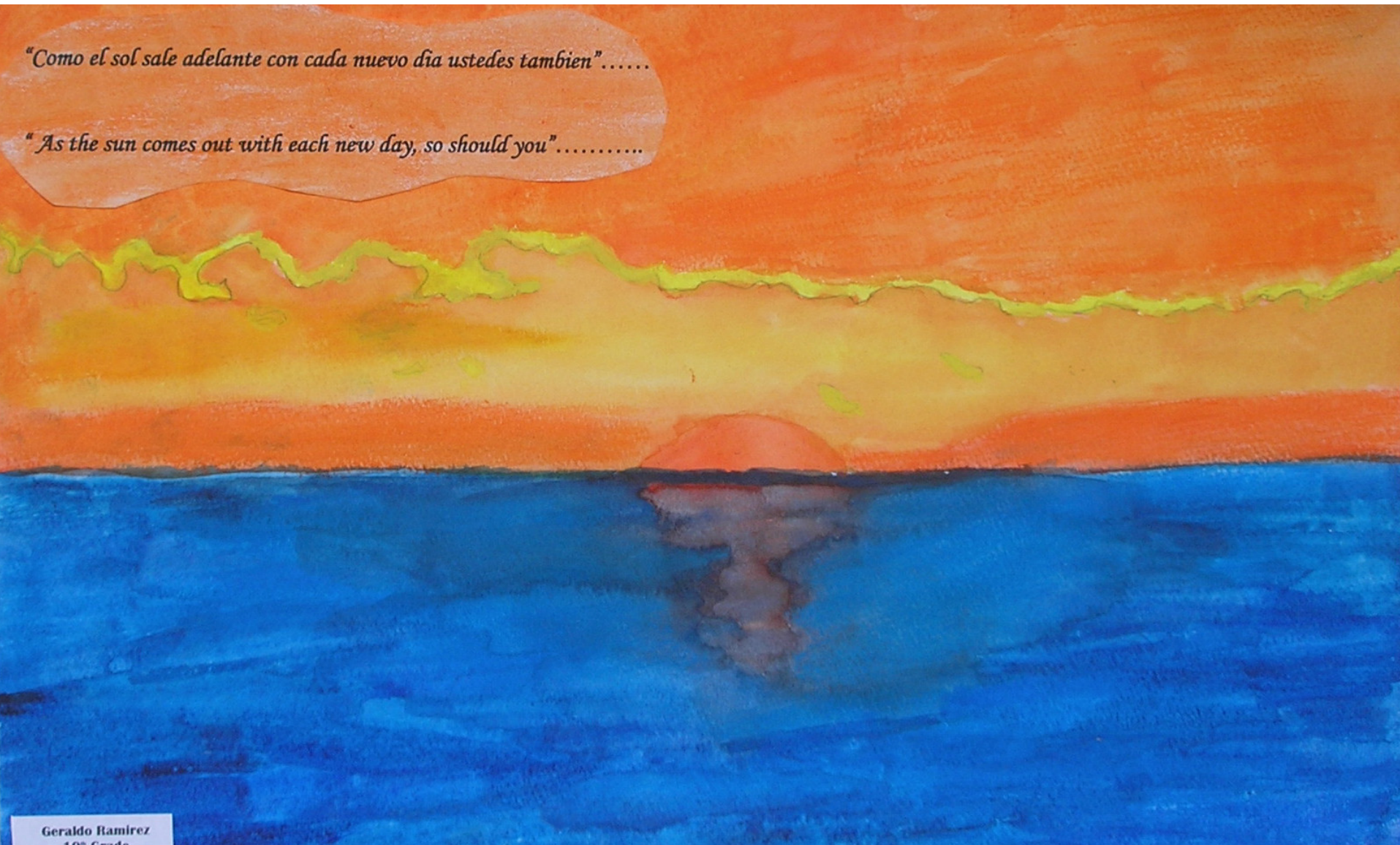
Terry Gray
Grade 4, Stamford
"Helping Hand"

"My wish for the world is for everybody
to lend a helping hand with love."



Geraldo Ramirez
Grade 10, Waterbury
"Sunrise World Drawing"

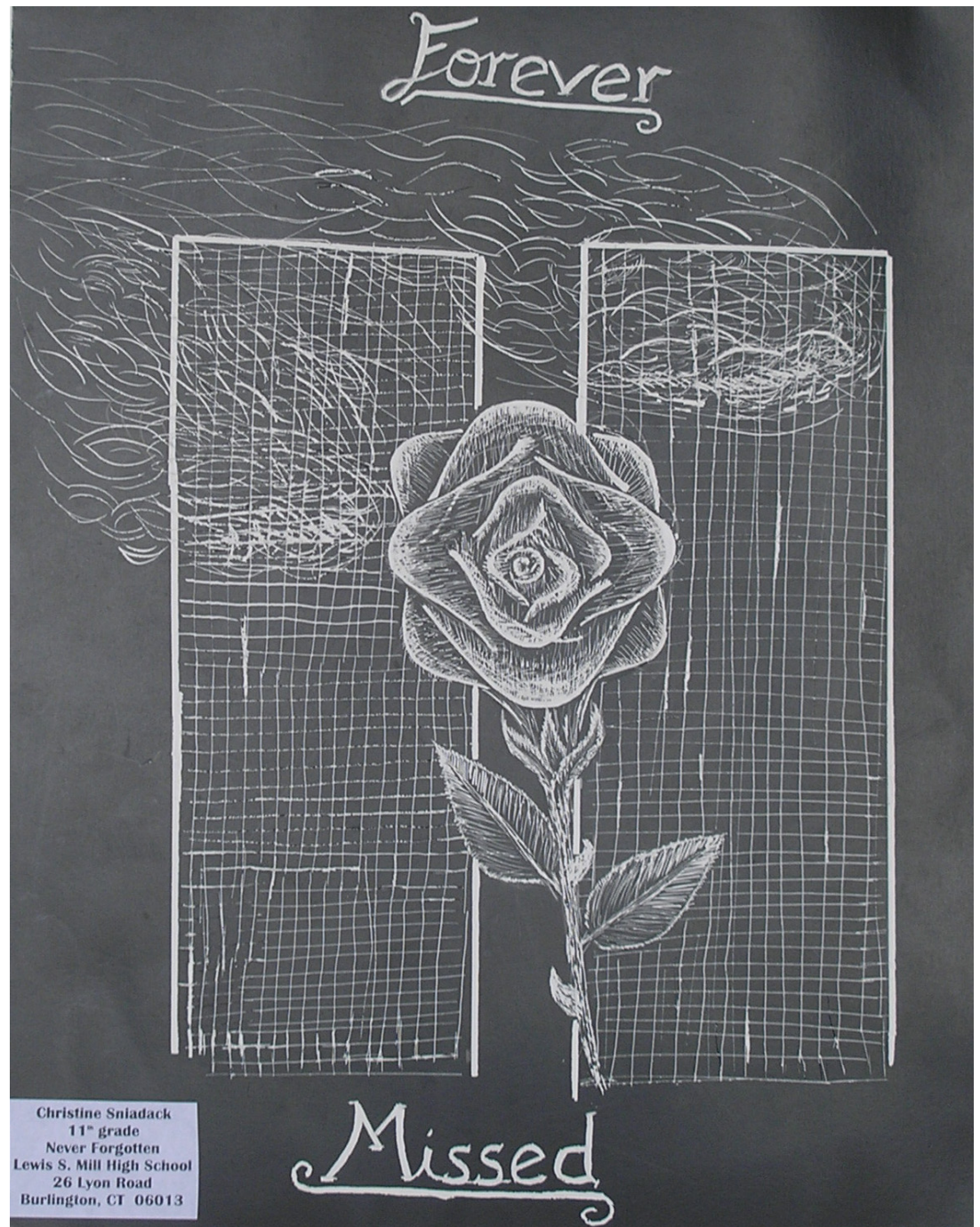
"As the sun comes out with
each new day, so should you..."



Christine
Sniadack

Grade 11,
Burlington

"Never
Forgotten"



Gala Flagello
Grade 6, New Fairfield

"My Wish for the World"



Courtney
Taylor

Grade 10,
Coventry

"United
We
Stand"



Courtney Taylor
10th Grade
Coventry High School
Coventry, CT 06238

Marina
Hojnacki

Grade 11,
Guilford

"One
Wish"



Marina Hojnacki
11th grade
Guilford High School
Guilford, CT

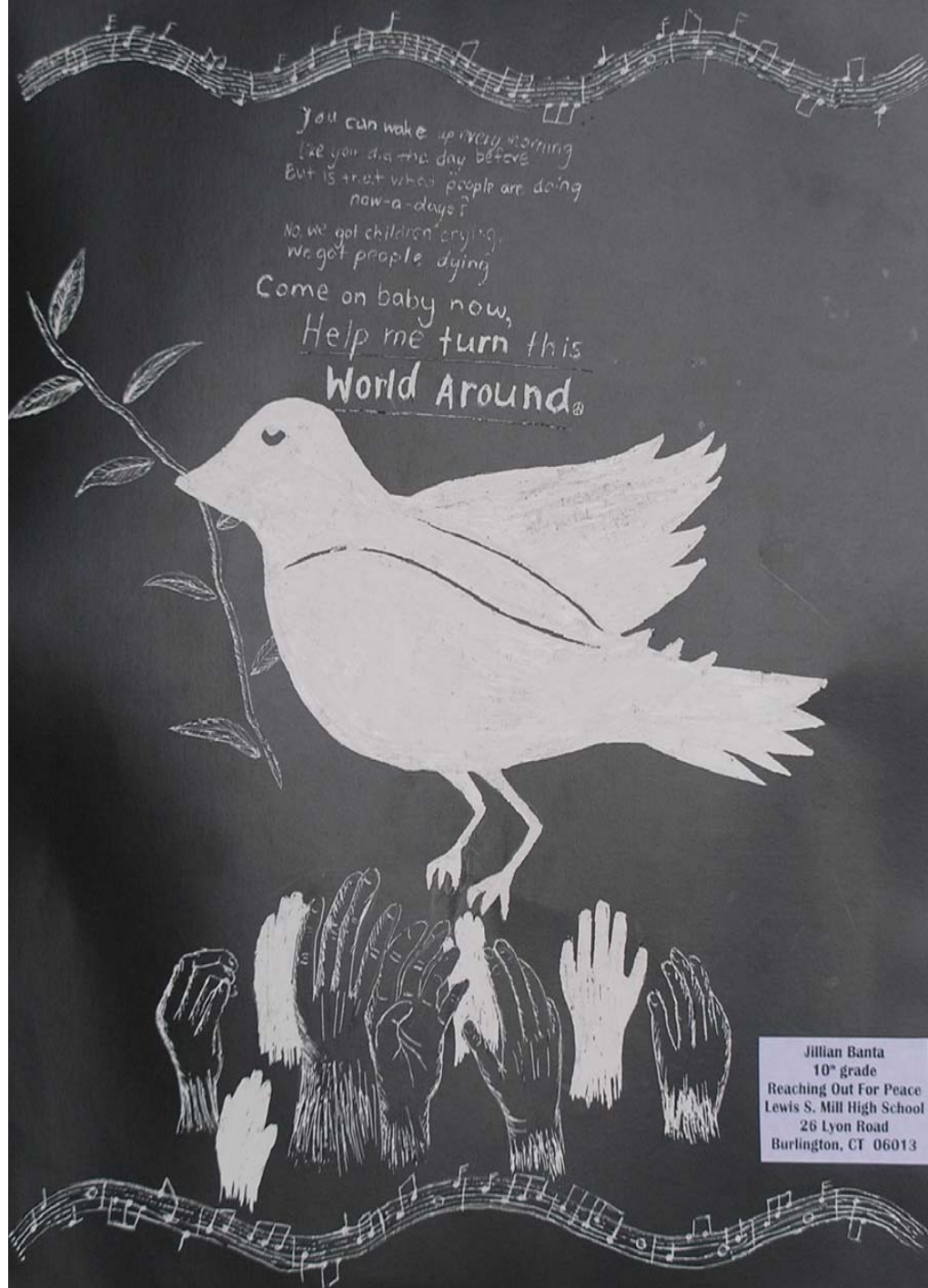
"If I
could
make one
wish for
the
world, I
would
wish for
world
peace."

MLH
♥ '05

Jillian
Banta

Grade 10,
Burlington

"Reaching
Out for
Peace"

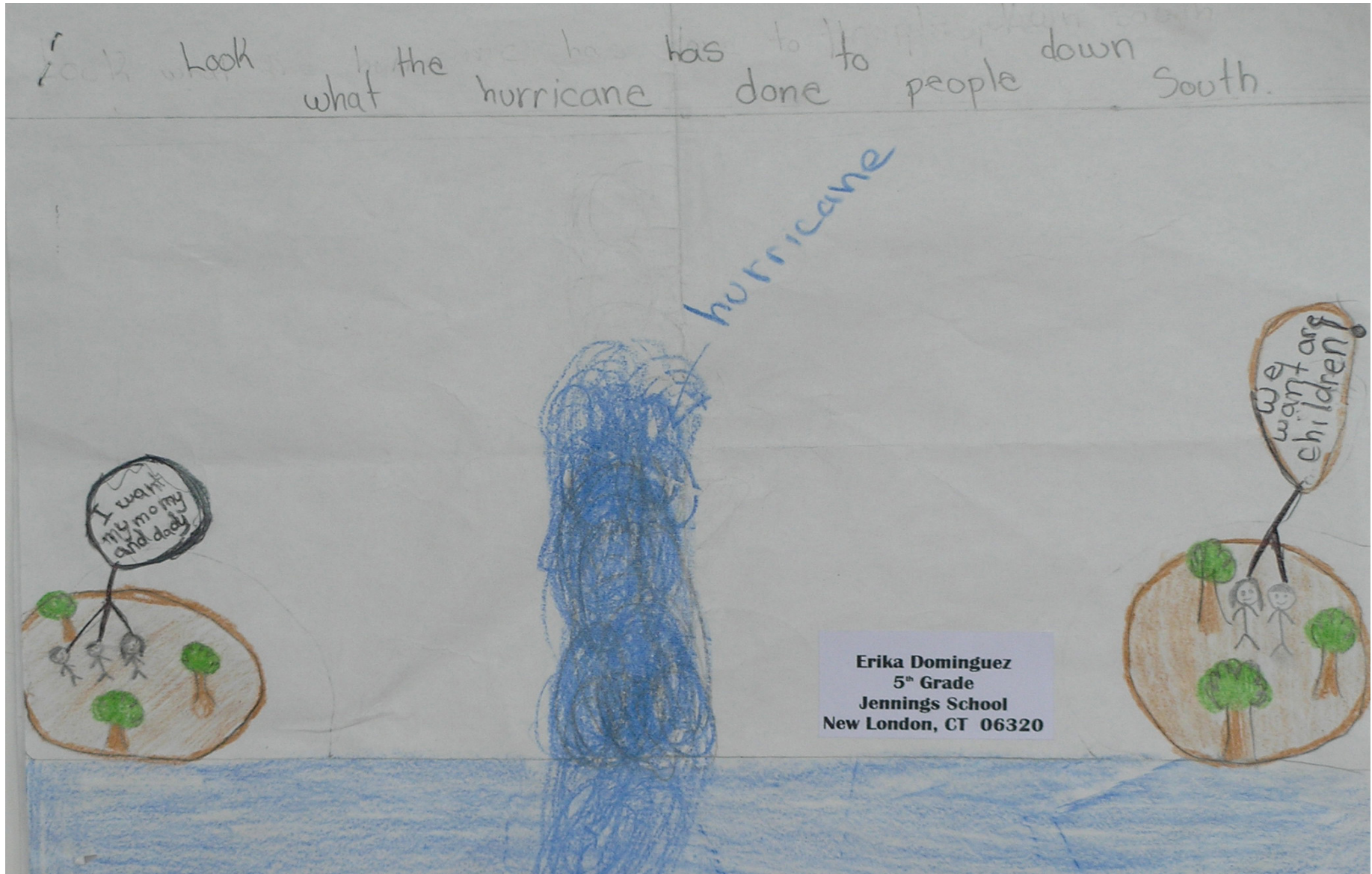


"You can wake up every morning like you did the day before. But is that what people are doing now-a-days? No, we got children crying, we got people dying. Come on baby now, help me turn this world around."

Erika Dominguez

Grade 5, New London

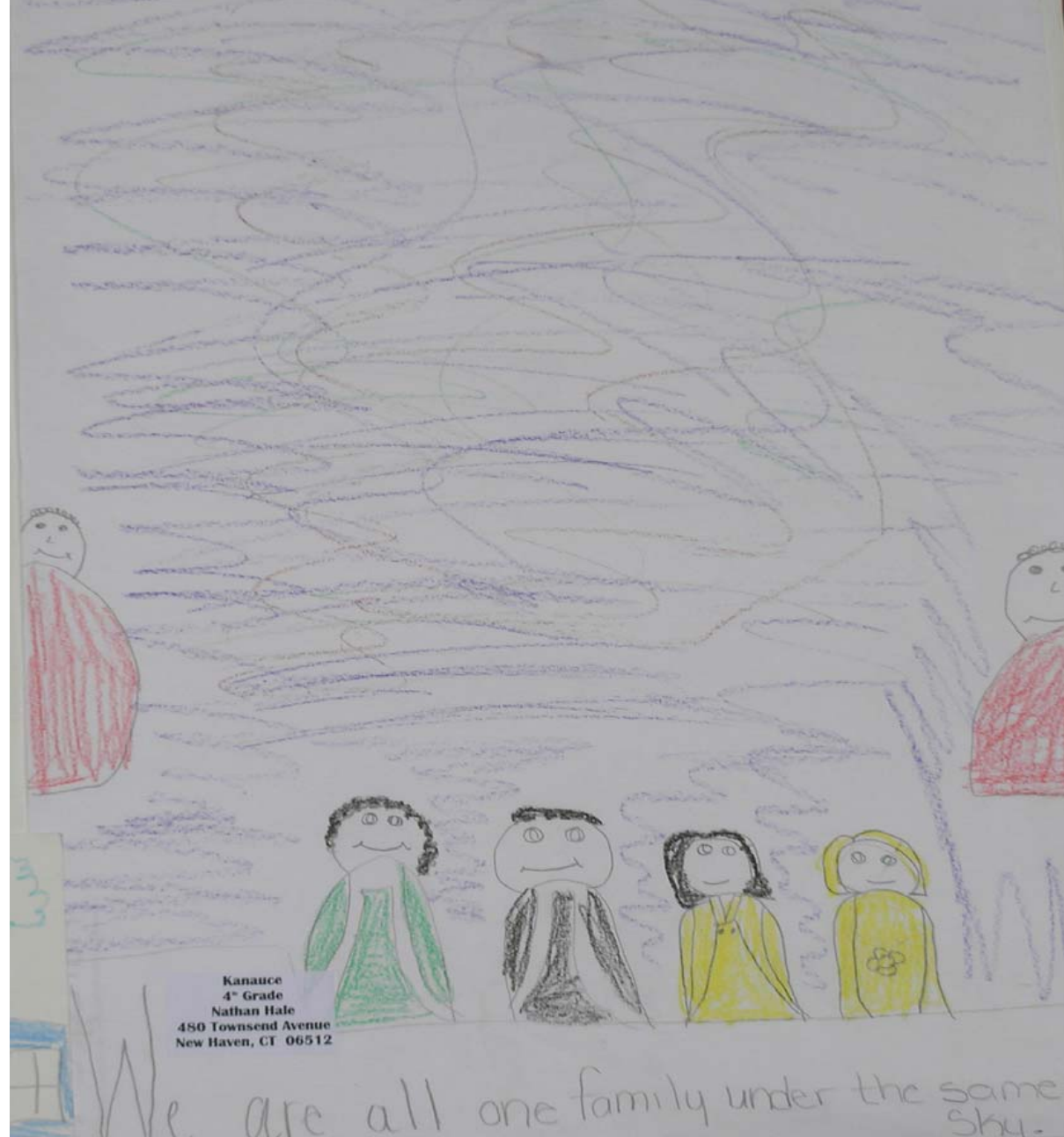
"Look what the hurricane
has done to the people
down South."



Kanauce

Grade 4, New
Haven

"How the
World is
Peaceful"



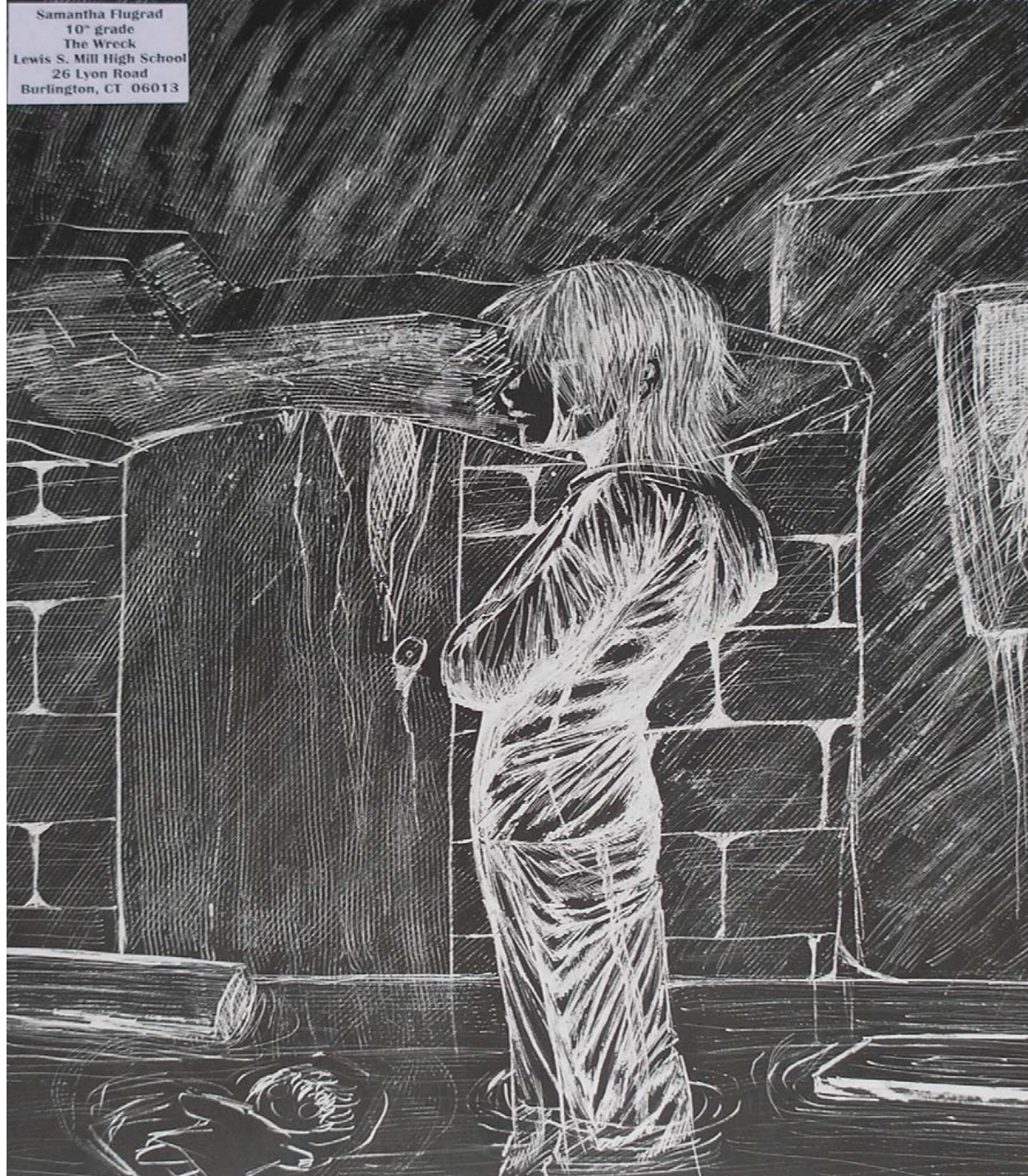
"We are all one family under the same sky."

Samantha Flugrad
10th grade
The Wreck
Lewis S. Mill High School
26 Lyon Road
Burlington, CT 06013

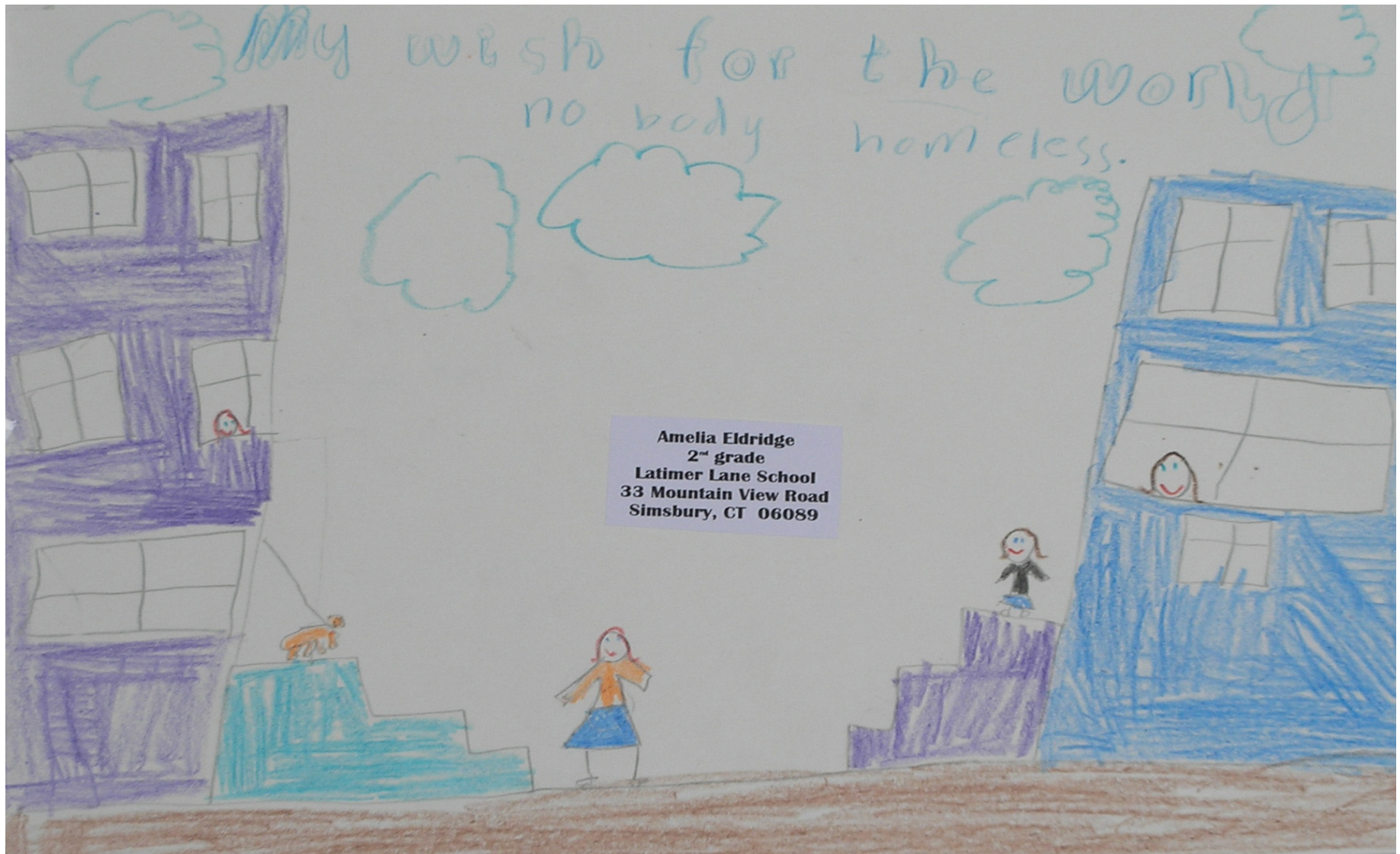
Samantha
Flugrad

Grade 10,
Burlington

"The Wreck"



Amelia Eldridge Grade 2, Simsbury



"My wish for the world: nobody homeless"



"Hurricane victims have lost everything, but now help has arrived!"

Katherine Janiszewski

Grade 5,
Farmington

"Help has arrived!"

Kate Tschudi
Grade 8, Redding
"Everything I know, I learned in Kindergarten"

Many children are the ones that don't care about differences. Here is a normal kindergarten class. They don't care about!



So, if we all just be like kindergartners, the world would be less hating.

OPPRESSION

Philip Pasco
Monkeys

10th grade
Lewis S. Mill High School
26 Lyon Road
Burlington, CT 06013



Philip Pasco

Grade 10,
Burlington

"Monkeys"

Kailie
Gulino

Grade 7,
Farmington

"In Her
Eyes"

*In her eyes
By Kailie Gulino*

*In her eyes mommy was a hero
Daddy was a Superman*

*In her eyes is a phone ringing at school
The teacher calling her over to tell
She was wanted for dismissal*

*In her eyes is her grandma crying in the office
The long footsteps she took to hug grandma*

The bad news she got in return

*In her eyes she saw the smoke glomming over her
The over turned ambulance*

*In her eyes she sees her dad rushing in to save
Strangers in trouble.*

*Mommy treating patients before
The ambulance tipped*

*In her eyes she sees the two caskets
Together being buried*

*The gravestones and flowers
The life that*

*She will never get back,
All because of 9/11.*



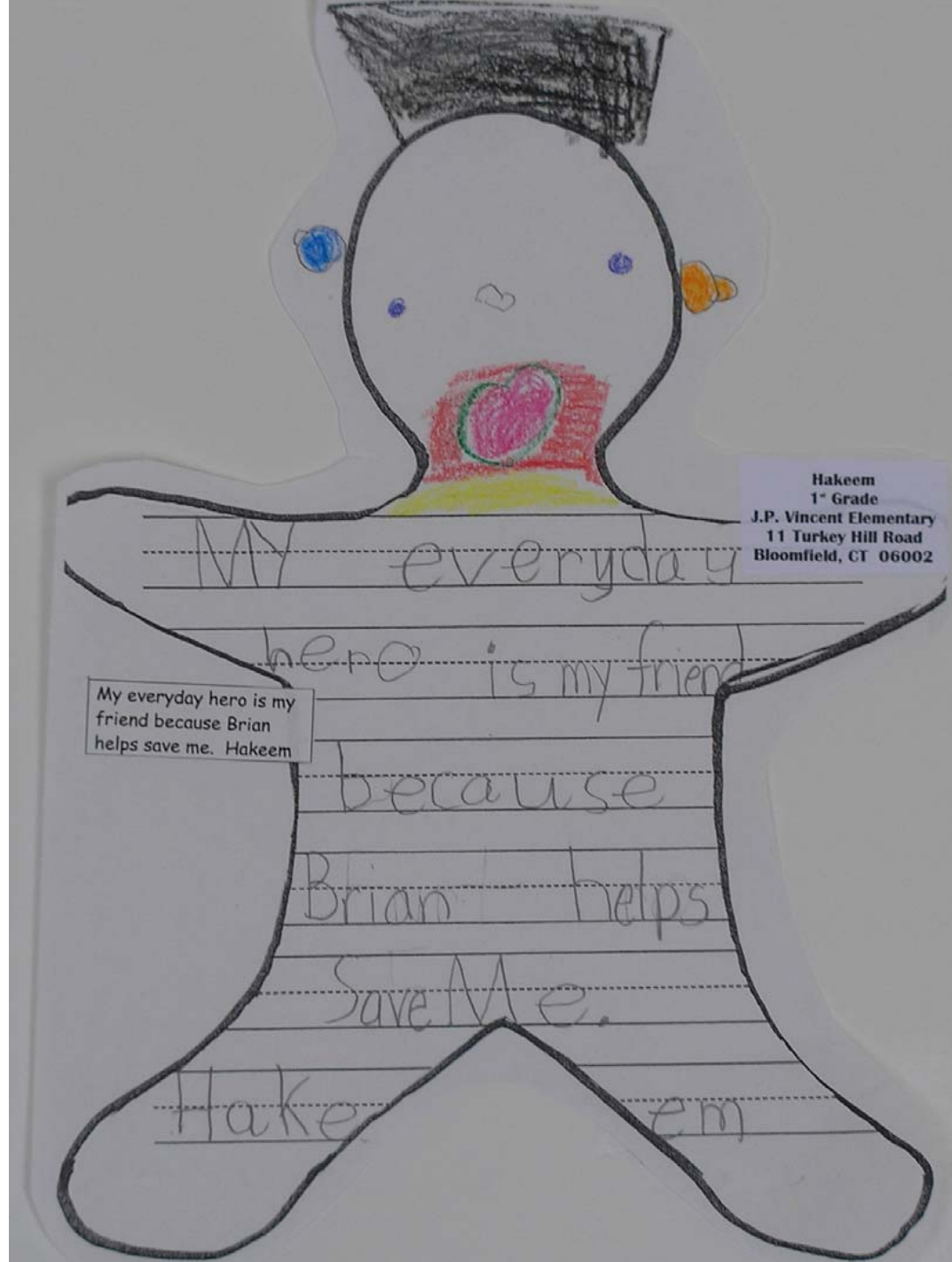
Kailie Gulino
In her Eyes
7th grade
Irving A. Robbins
20 Wolf Pit Road
Farmington, CT 06034

Hakeem
Badiru

Grade 1,
Bloomfield

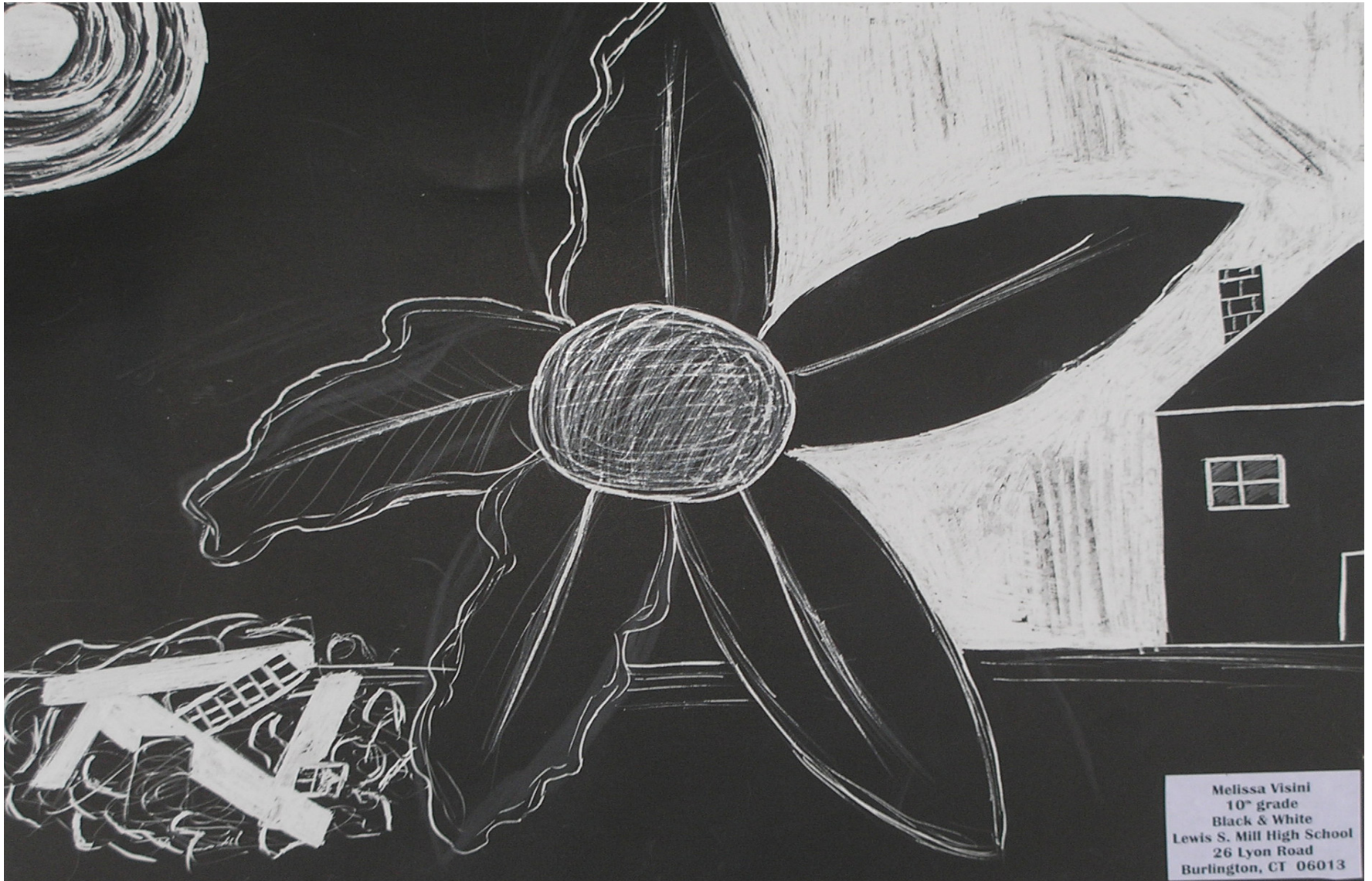
My Hero

"My everyday hero
is my friend
because Brian
helps save me."



Melissa Visini
Grade 10, Burlington

"Black & White"



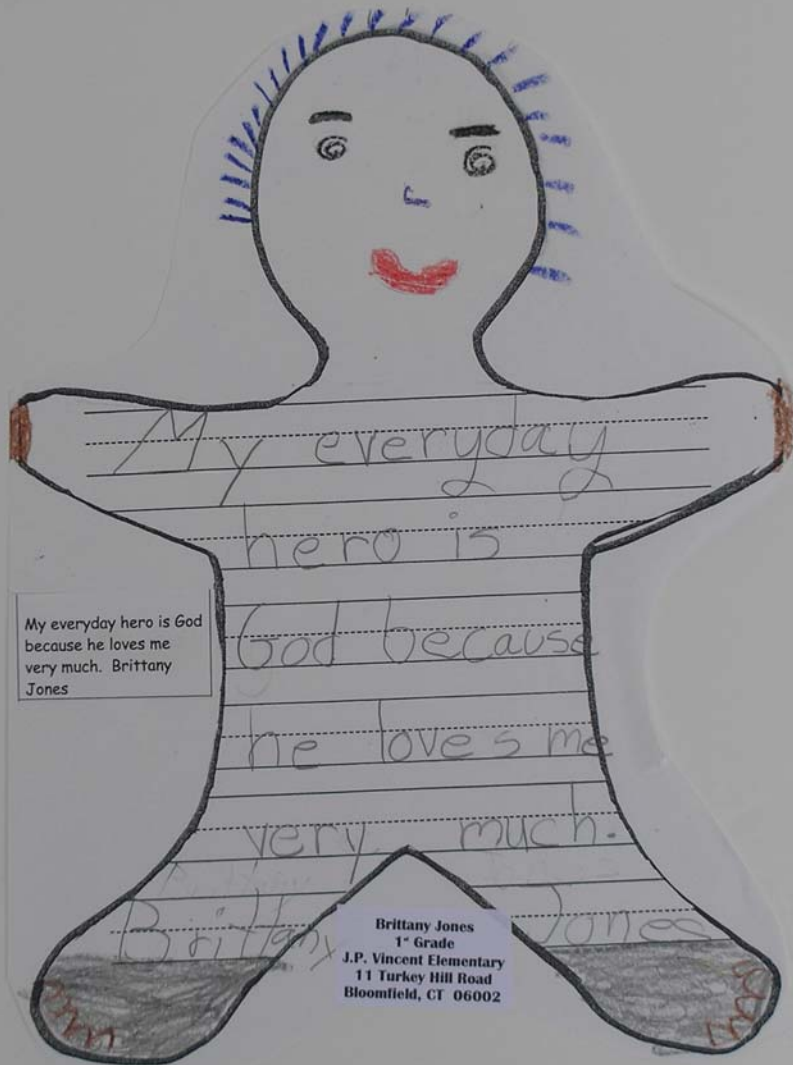
Melissa Visini
10th grade
Black & White
Lewis S. Mill High School
26 Lyon Road
Burlington, CT 06013

Brittany
Jones

Grade 1,
Bloomfield

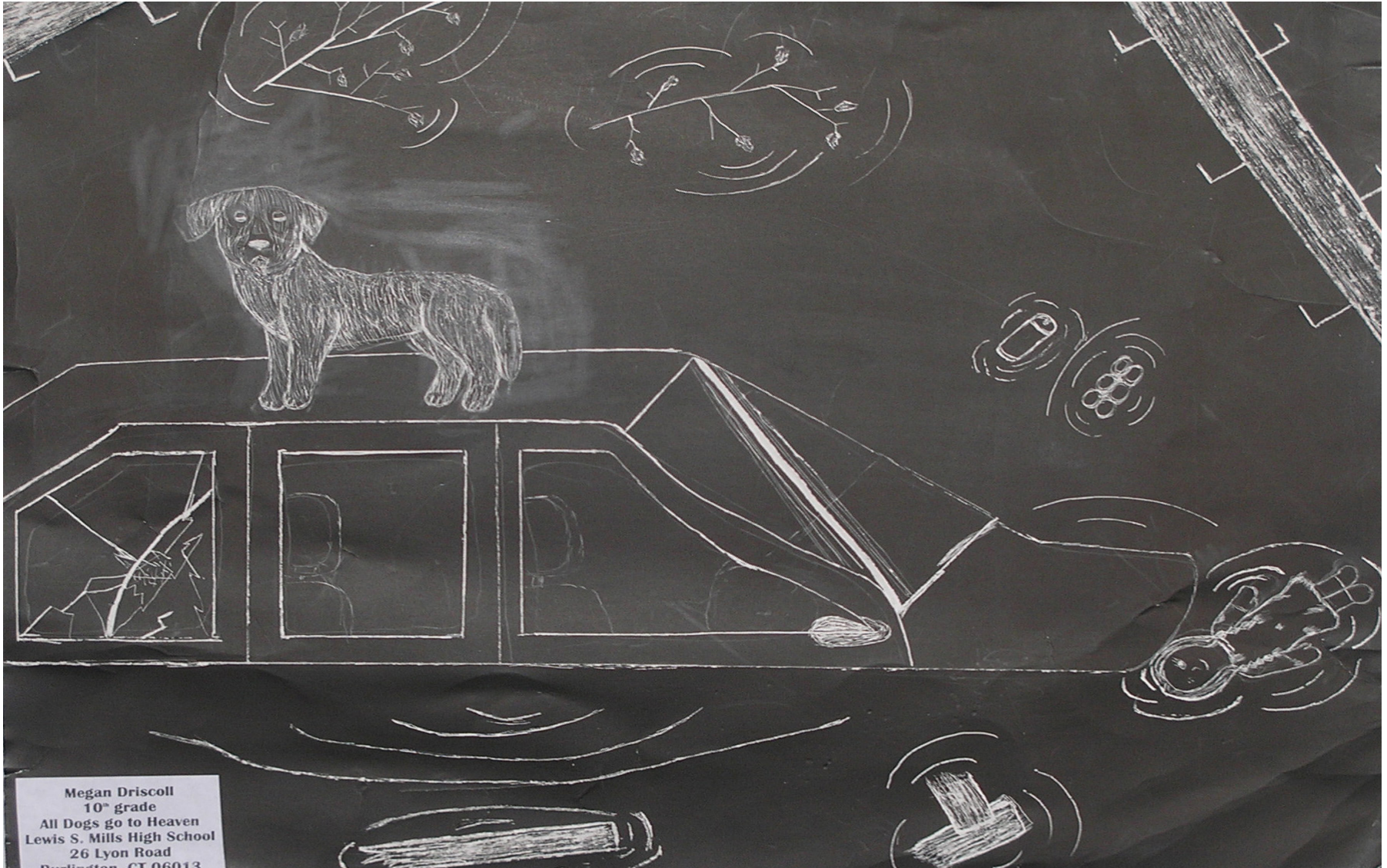
"My Hero"

"My everyday hero is
God because he loves
me very much."



Megan Driscoll
Grade 10, Burlington

"All Dogs go to Heaven"



Megan Driscoll
10th grade
All Dogs go to Heaven
Lewis S. Mills High School
26 Lyon Road
Burlington, CT 06013

Neeva Marie De La Paz
Grade 5, New Haven
"Our World"

"I ask why do we grow up
in this ghetto world?"



Carlos Lopez

Grade 4,
Stamford

"Sunshine"

"My wish for the world
is for the sun to shine
down and make everyone
happy."



Julia Lucero

Grade 5, Stamford

"It's a Dark, Dark, World"



My 10 Words:

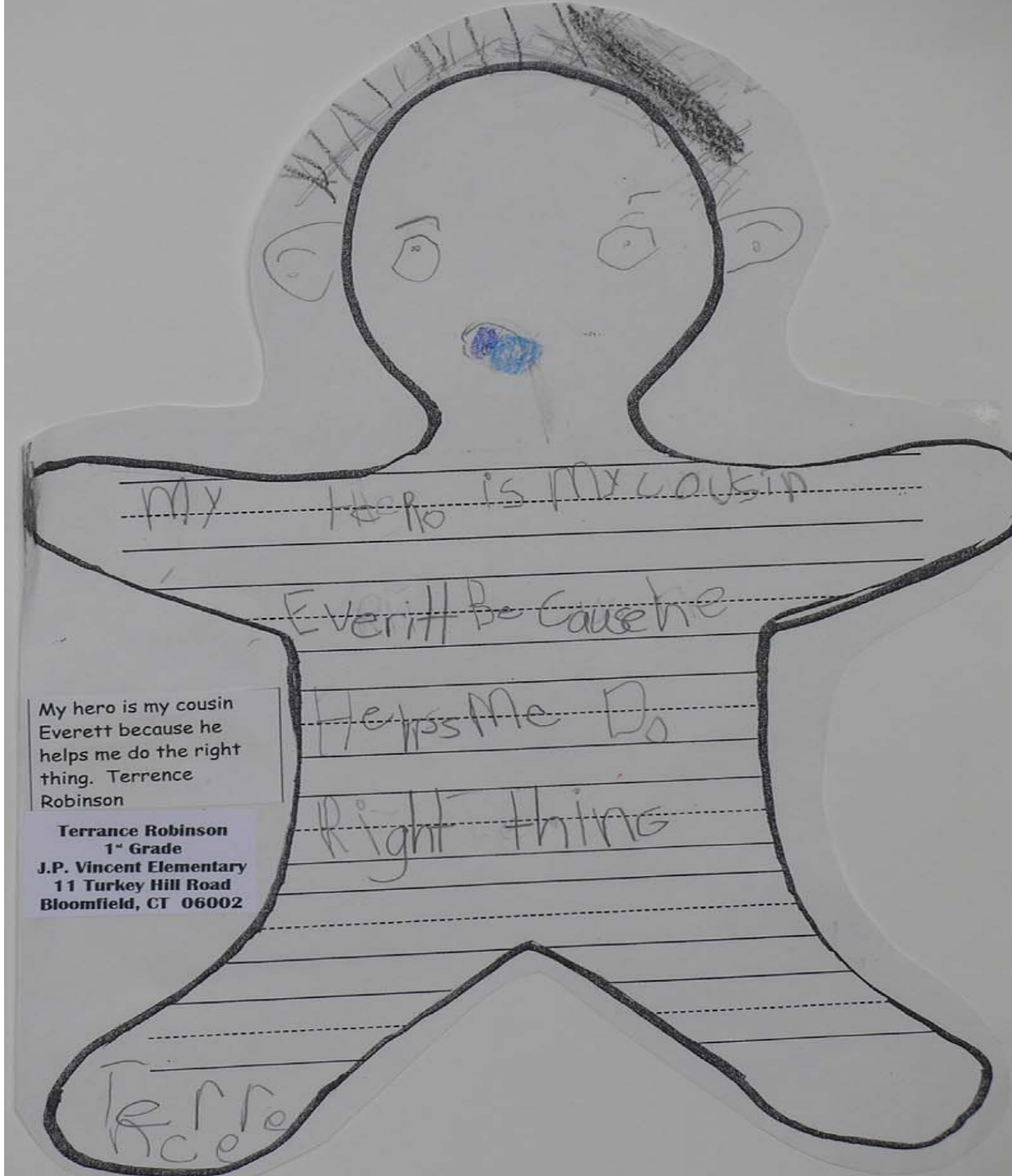
1. Scary
2. Dark
3. Violent
4. Ugly
5. Unforgiving
6. Bad
7. Crazy
8. Strong
9. Rude
10. Huge

Terrence
Robinson

Grade 1,
Bloomfield

"My Hero"

"My hero is my cousin
Everett because he
helps me to do the
right thing."



Crystal Manville Grade 6, Oakdale "After Hurricane Katrina"



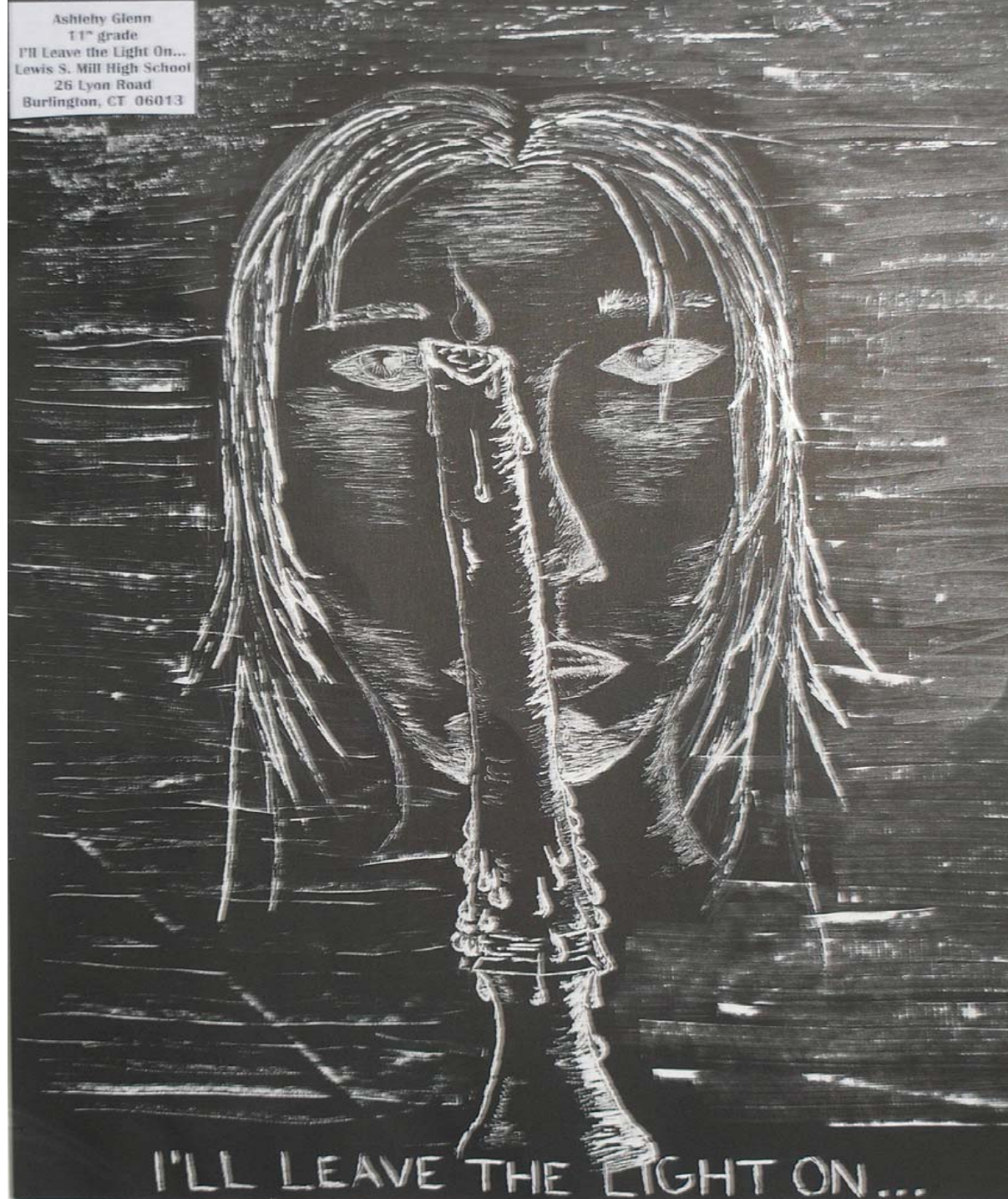
Crystal Manville
6th Grade
Leonard J. Tyl Middle School
166 Chesterfield Road
Oakdale, CT 06370

Ashley Glenn
11th grade
I'll Leave the Light On...
Lewis S. Mill High School
26 Lyon Road
Burlington, CT 06013

Ashley Glenn

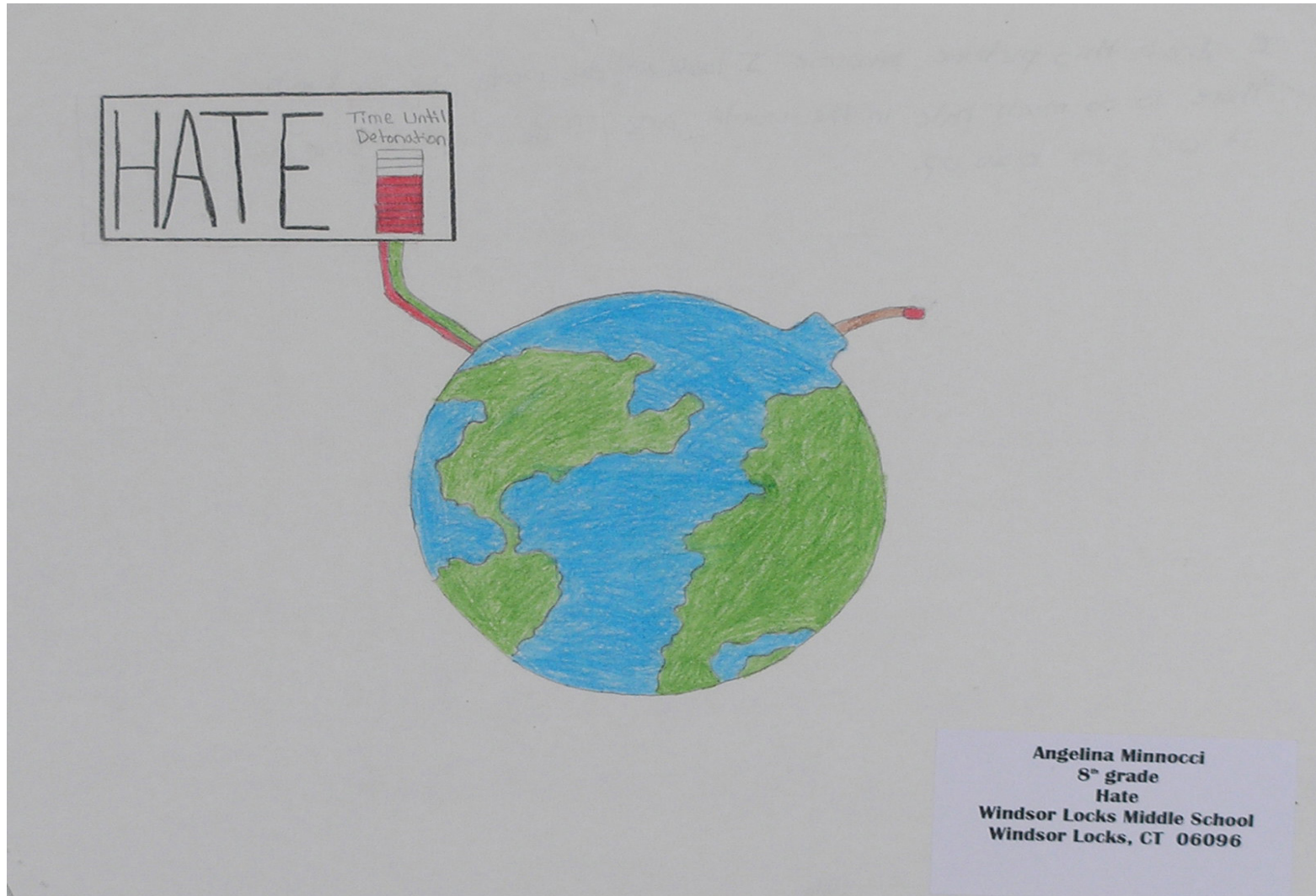
Grade 11,
Burlington

"I'll leave the
light on"



Angelina Minnocci
Grade 8, Windsor Locks

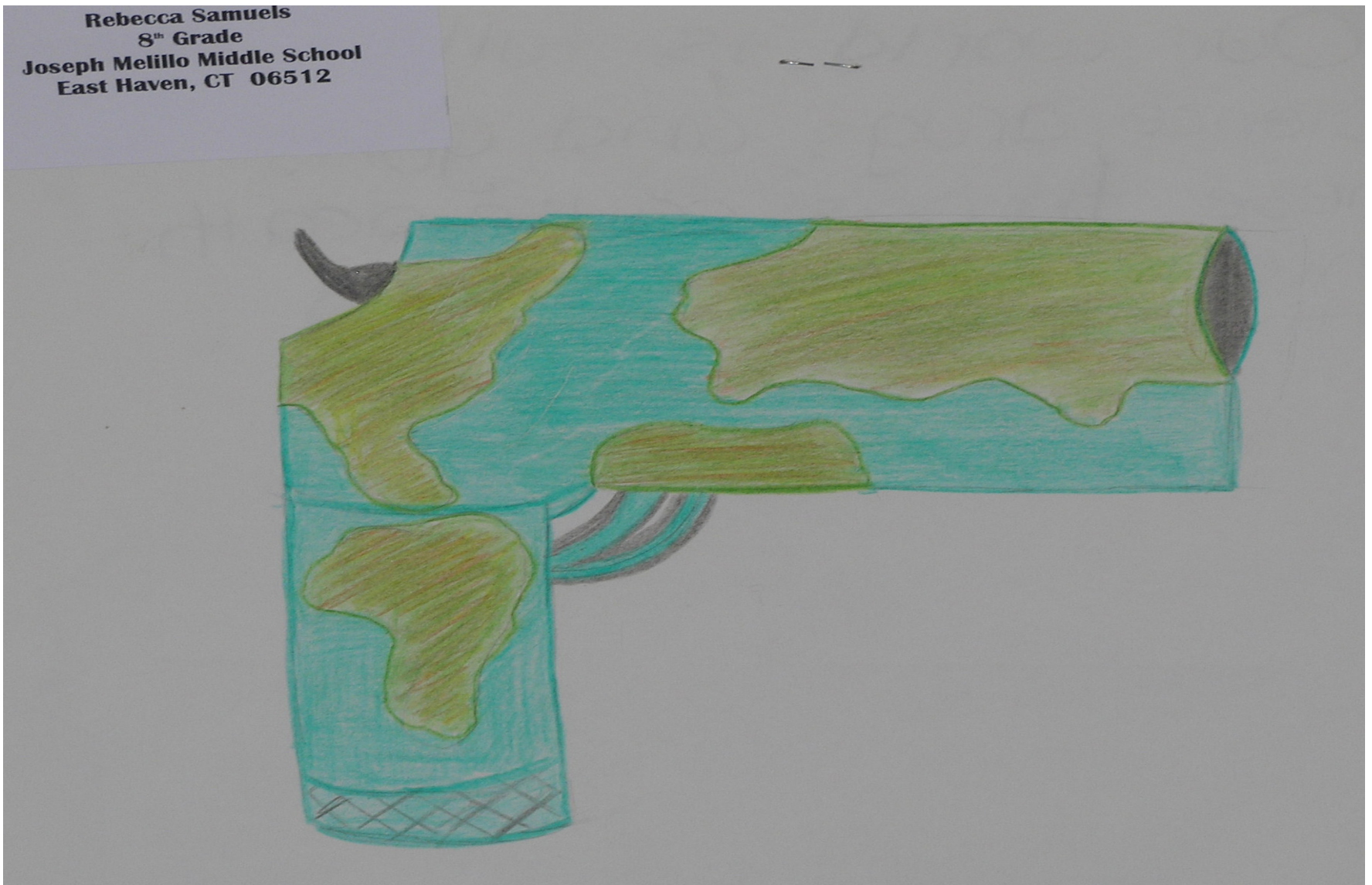
"Hate"



"I drew this picture because I see the world as a bomb. There is so much hate in the world and I believe that one day it will just blow up."

Rebecca Samuels
Grade 8, East Haven

"Our World"



Tyler Smith Grade 6, Ashford "Changes in the World"



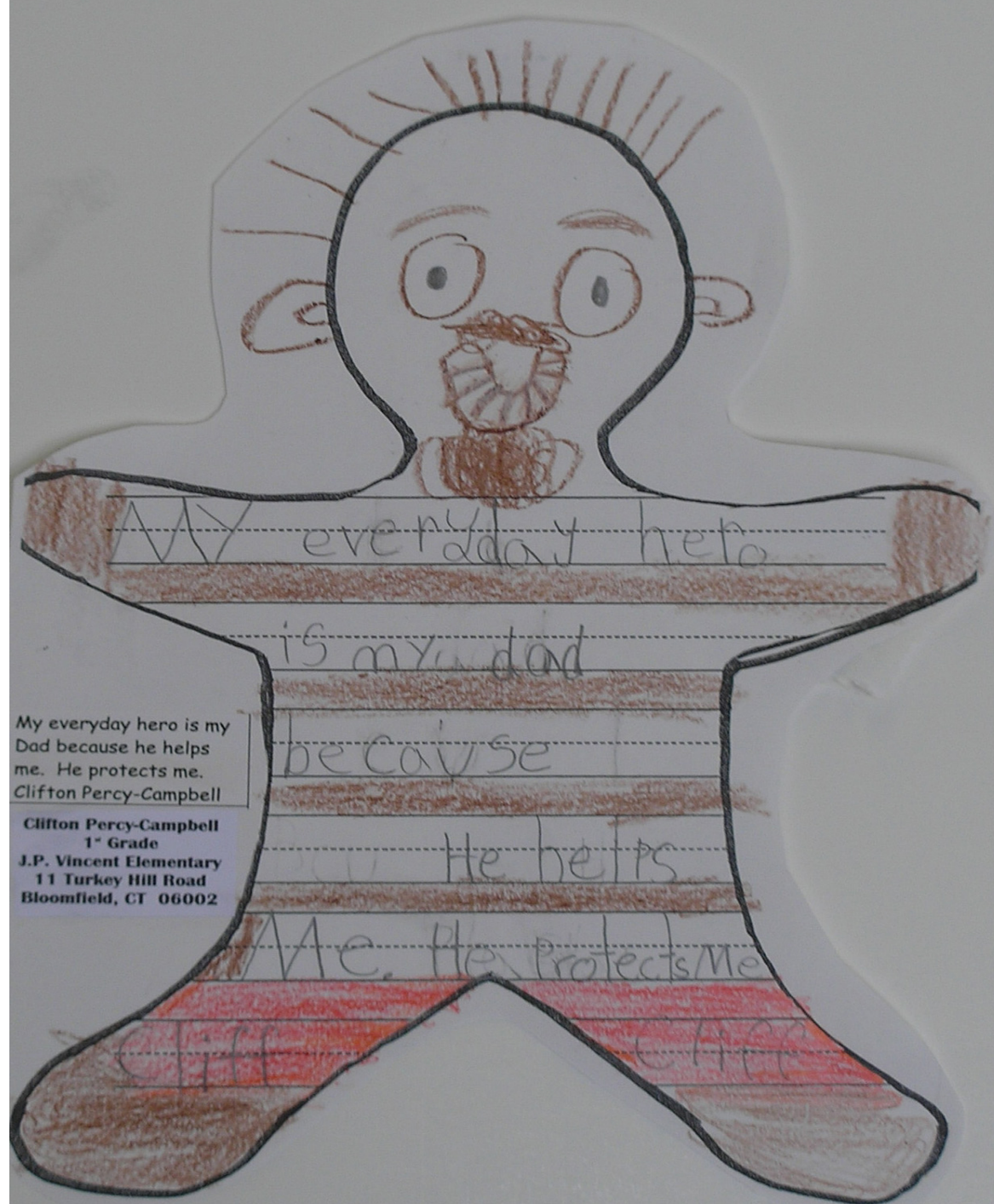
"Some things we have no control over. But some events on my map I hope will change. Disasters like tsunamis, hurricanes, and earthquakes are things we have to live with. But the Iraq war, nuclear weapons in North Korea, famine, and AIDS are things that we can change, and I very much hope they do."

Clifton Percy-
Campbell

Grade 1,
Bloomfield

"My Hero"

"My everyday hero is
my Dad because he
helps me. He protects
me."



Darlene Magbaleta
Grade 8, New Haven

"The World Today"

My 10 Words:

1. Suicidal
2. Love
3. Caring
4. Death
5. Unfair
6. Darkness
7. Pointless
8. Exciting
9. Full of Life
10. Protective



Elidania Collado

Grade 3, Waterbury

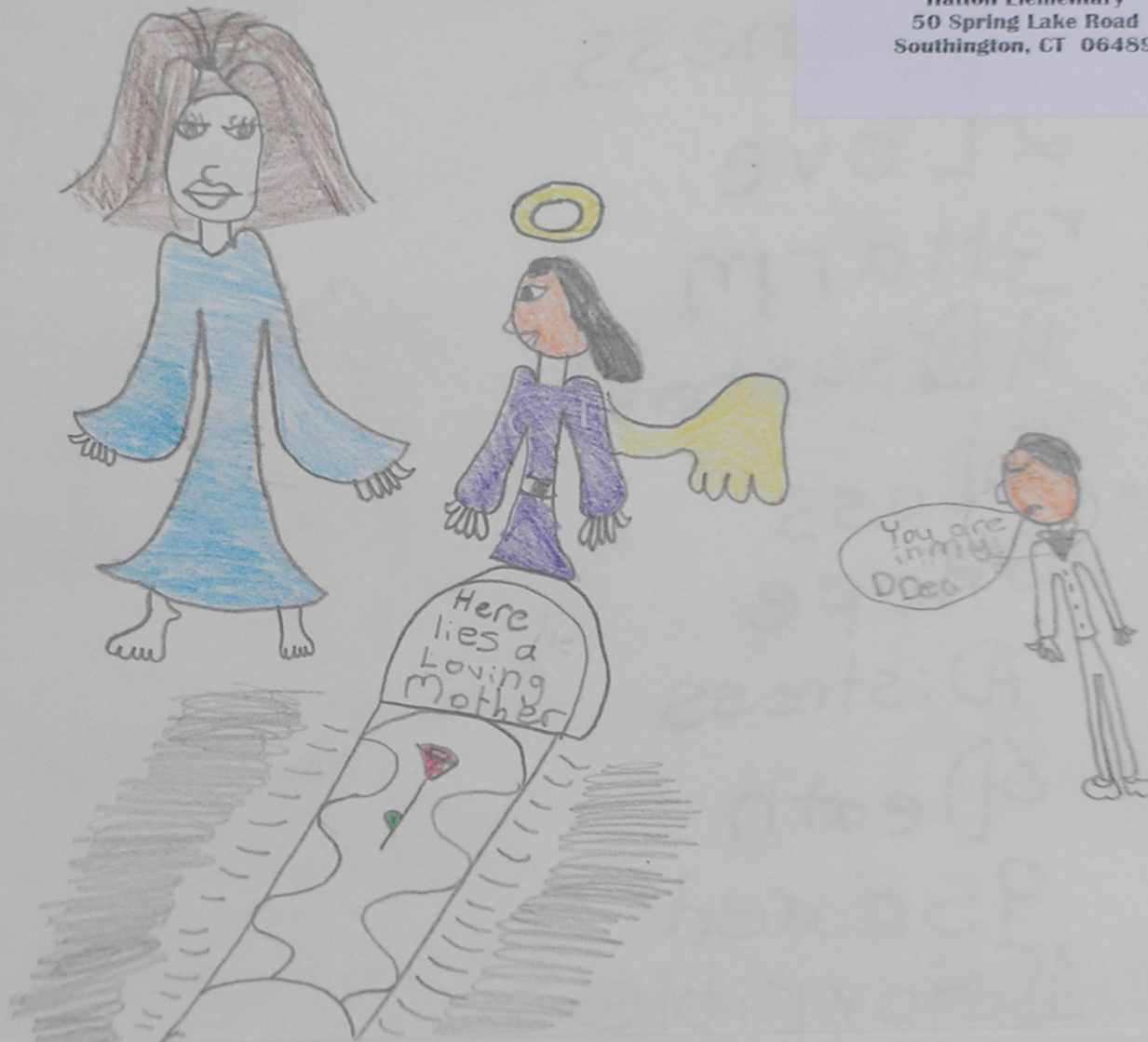
"The World Today"



"Today the world is a much better place...The Earth's beauty is such a wonderful thing for the people...People should be very, very happy because they live on a beautiful planet."

Libby Ogren
Grade 5, Southington

"Life at Its End"

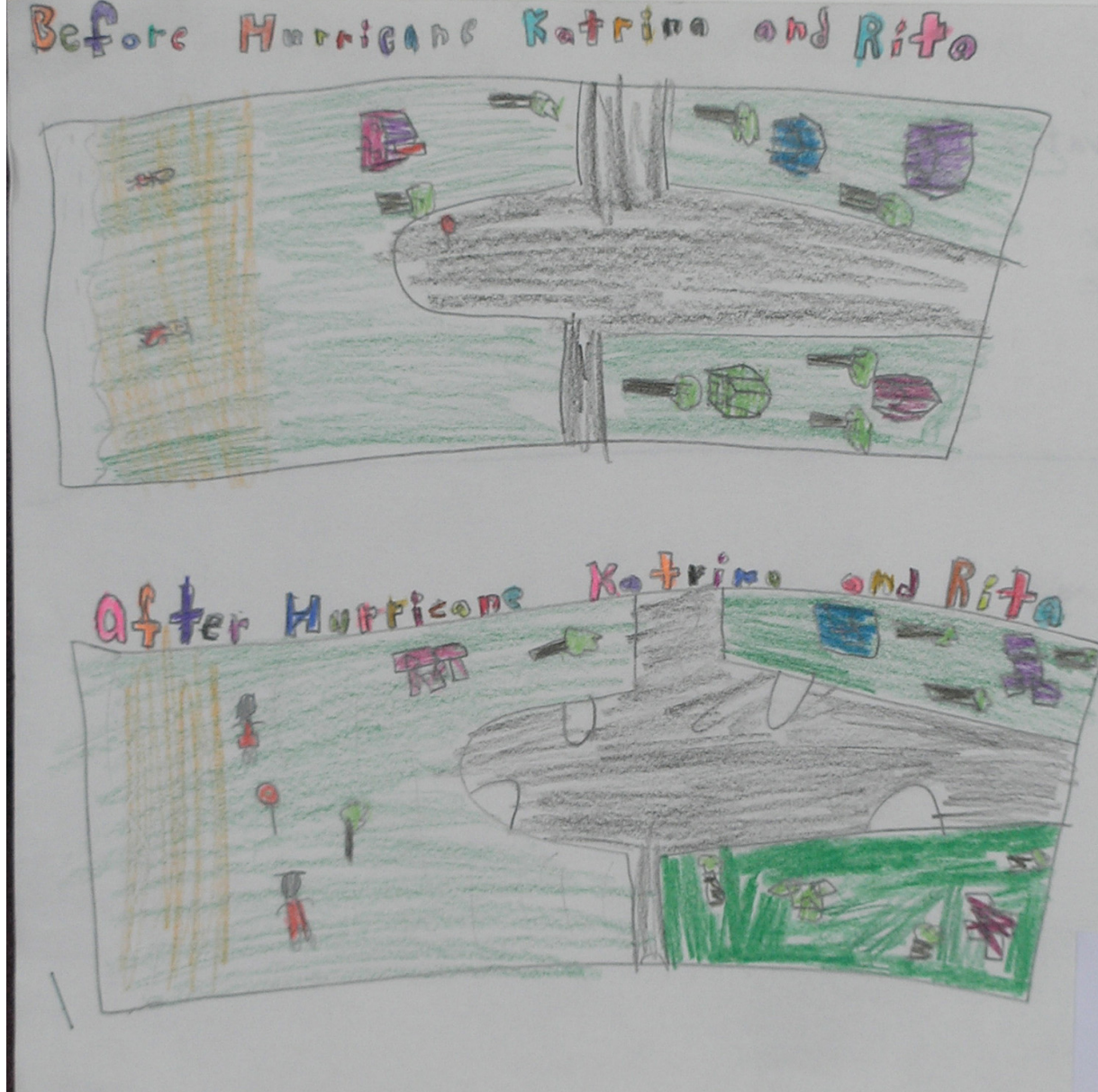


Libby Ogren
Life at its end
Hatton Elementary
50 Spring Lake Road
Southington, CT 06489

My 10 Words:

1. Sadness
2. Love
3. Harm
4. Disastrous
5. Loss
6. Hope
7. Distress
8. Death
9. Scared
10. Horrible

1. Sunny
2. Fun
3. Hot under water
4. Put together
5. People there
6. Broken
7. Flood
8. Scary
9. Dark
10. Drowned



Kathleen Mulhearn
The Before and After
5th grade
Hatton Elementary
50 Spring Lake Road
Southington, CT 06489

Kathleen Mulhearn
Grade 5, Southington

"The Before and After"

Alyssa Barrow
Grade 10, Burlington

"Once Upon a Time"

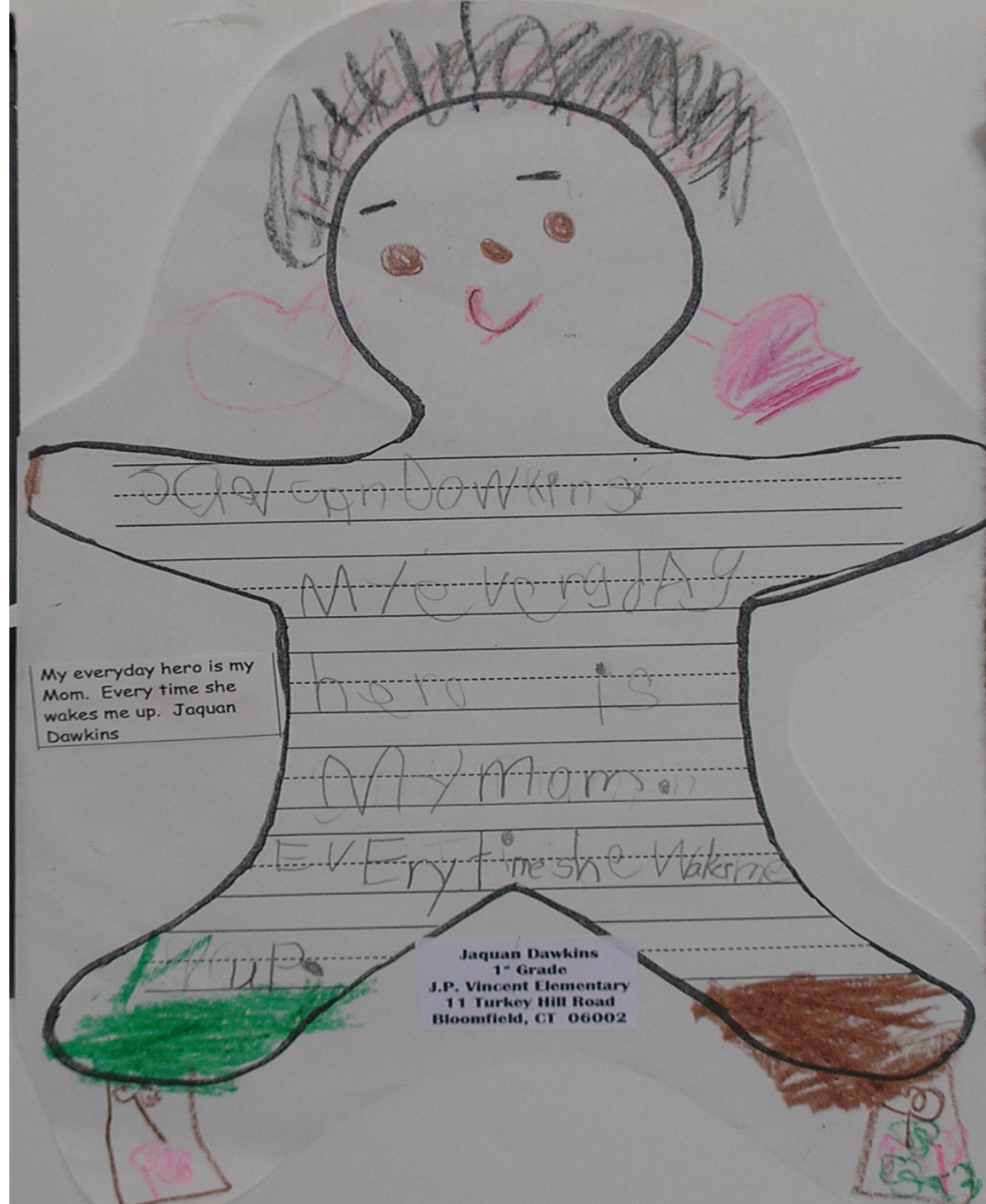


Jaquan
Dawkins

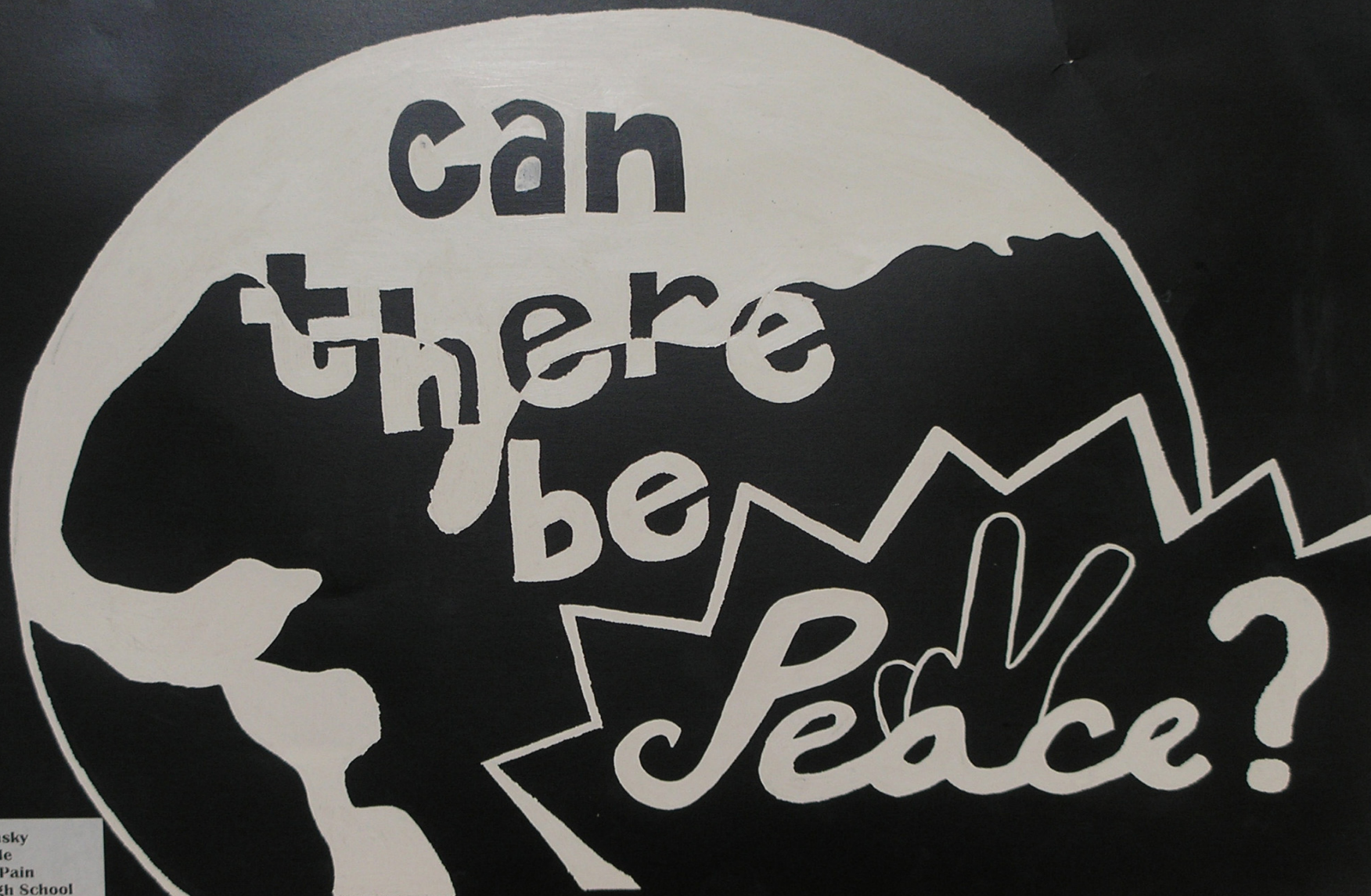
Grade 1,
Bloomfield

"My Hero"

"My everyday hero is
my Mom. Every time
she wakes me up."



Lisa Sartinsky
Grade 12, Burlington
"After Such Pain"

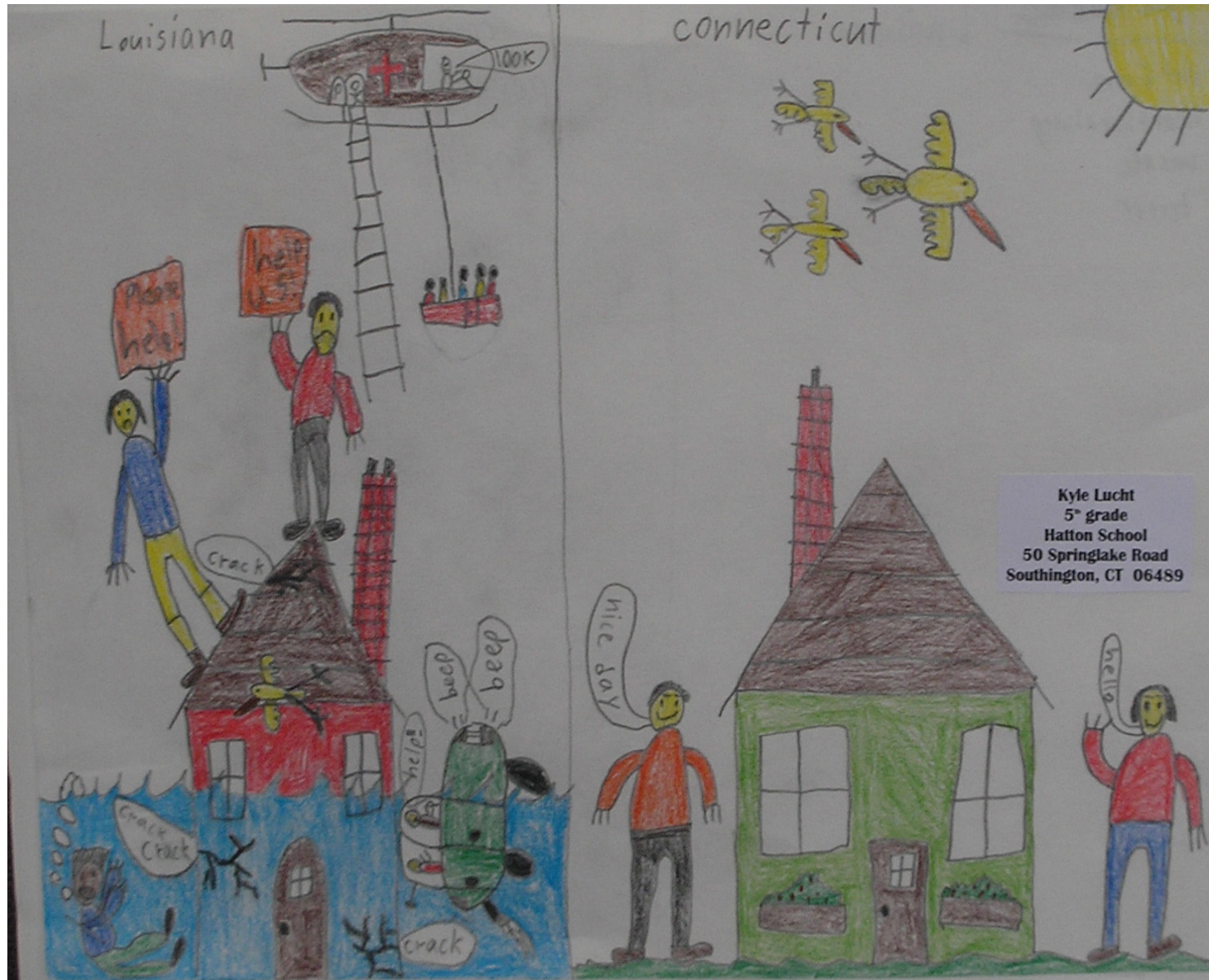


Kyle Lucht

Grade 5, Southington

My Words:

Not Fun
Heartbreaking
Unsafe
Terror
Peaceful
Joyful
Fun
Safe



Colin Barry
Grade 7, Brooklyn
"We need more helping hands to pull together"



Colin Barry
7th Grade
Brooklyn Middle School
119 Gorman Road
Brooklyn, CT 06234

Brianna Soares
Grade 7, Stratford
"9/11- Why did it happen?"



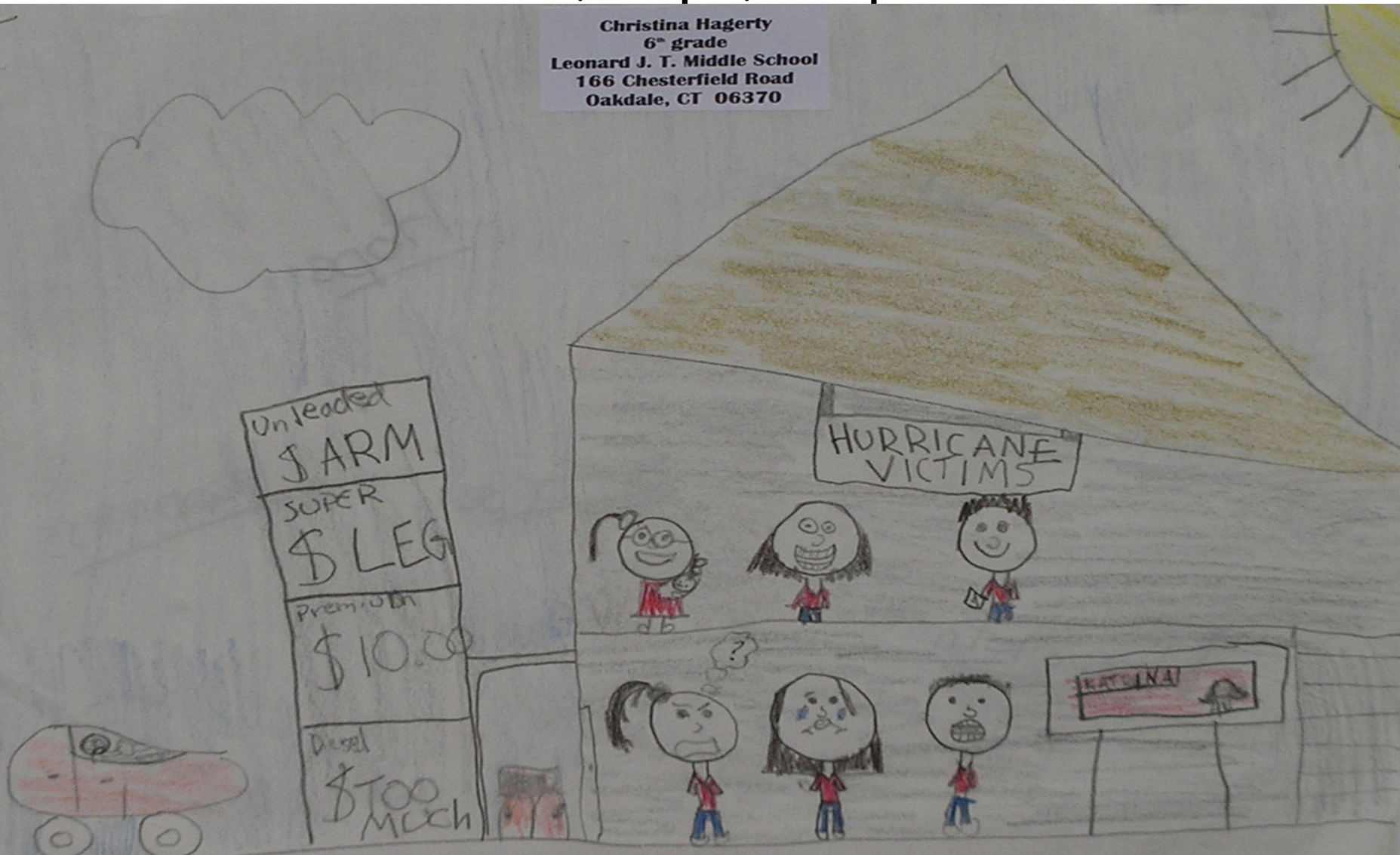
"...I found 9/11 more horrifying because this was not a natural disaster...It could have been stopped with a heart, but was not."

Diana Gryszkiewicz
Grade 7, Easton
"World Events"



Christina Hagerty
Grade 6, Oakdale
"Sadness, Hope, Surprise"

Christina Hagerty
6th grade
Leonard J. T. Middle School
166 Chesterfield Road
Oakdale, CT 06370



Donald Claude
Grade 9, Waterbury
"Peace on Earth"

If I had One Wish for the World



Donald Claude
9th Grade
Waterbury Arts Magnet School
16 South Elm Street
Waterbury, CT 06706

I would wish for... World Peace

Third Grade Class Goshen

If we could make one wish for the world, it would be to have **peace** for everyone. There would be no wars, no terrorists, no bombs, and no killing. We would feel safe in our neighborhoods. People who are big and small, celebrate different religions, have different colored skin, and believe different things would all get along. We would **enjoy** each other's differences! We could help make sure there were enough medicines, food, and water, and clothes for everyone. We would help each other build homes, schools, and farms. We would focus on **helping** each other, not hurting each other. And if a disaster happened, we run to help each other. ...not worry about who should have been there first. **Peace** is our wish for the world!

"...Peace is our wish for the world!"

Lauren Perugini
Grade 7, Oakville
"Why War Begins..."

WHY DOES WAR BEGIN?

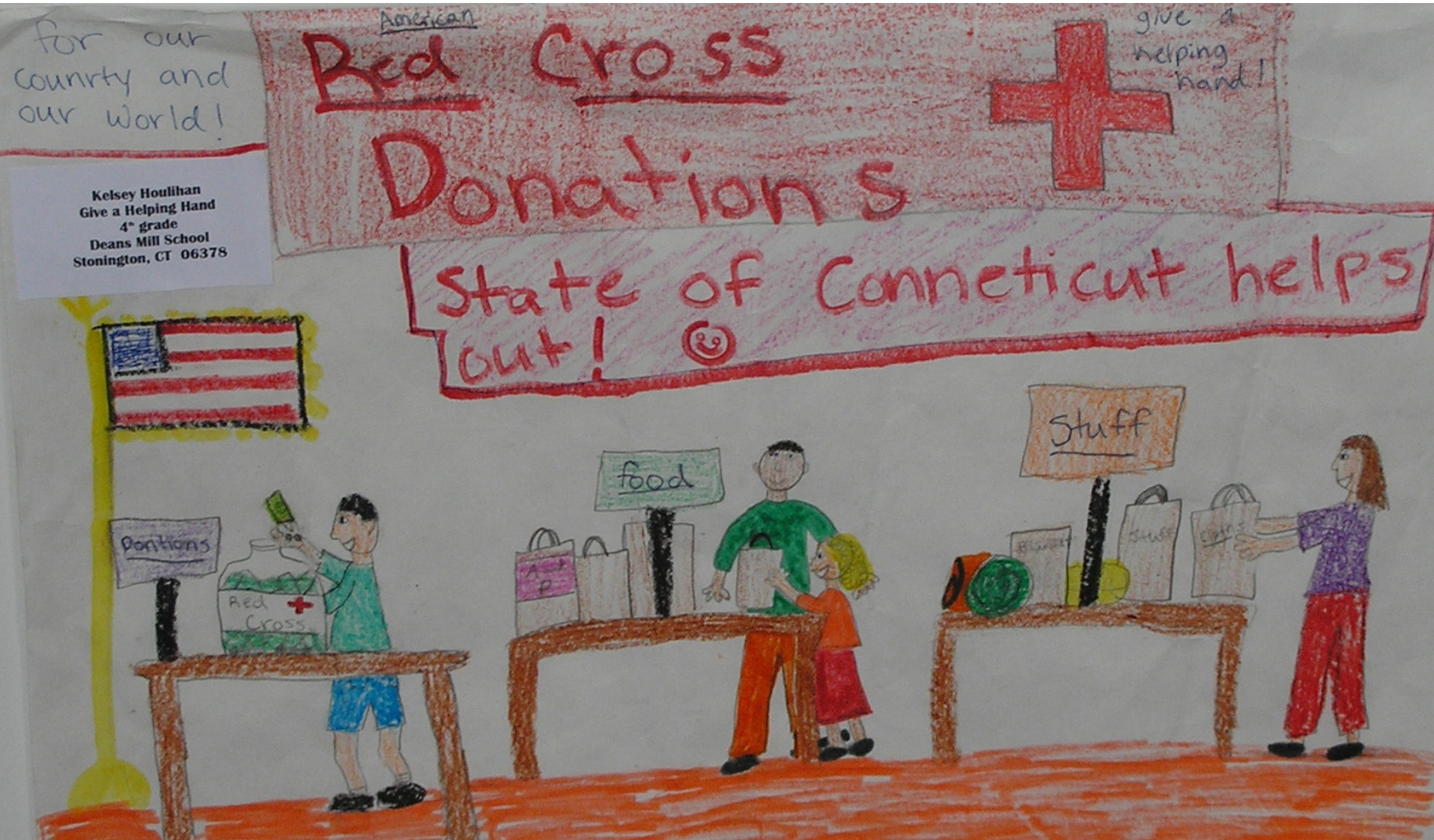
BECAUSE OF...

MONEY , LAND , AND THE SELFISH.



Lauren Perugini
Why War Begins...
7th Grade
Oakville North Middle School
Oakville, ON M6T 2T9

Kelsey Houlihan
Grade 4, Stonington
"Give a Helping Hand"



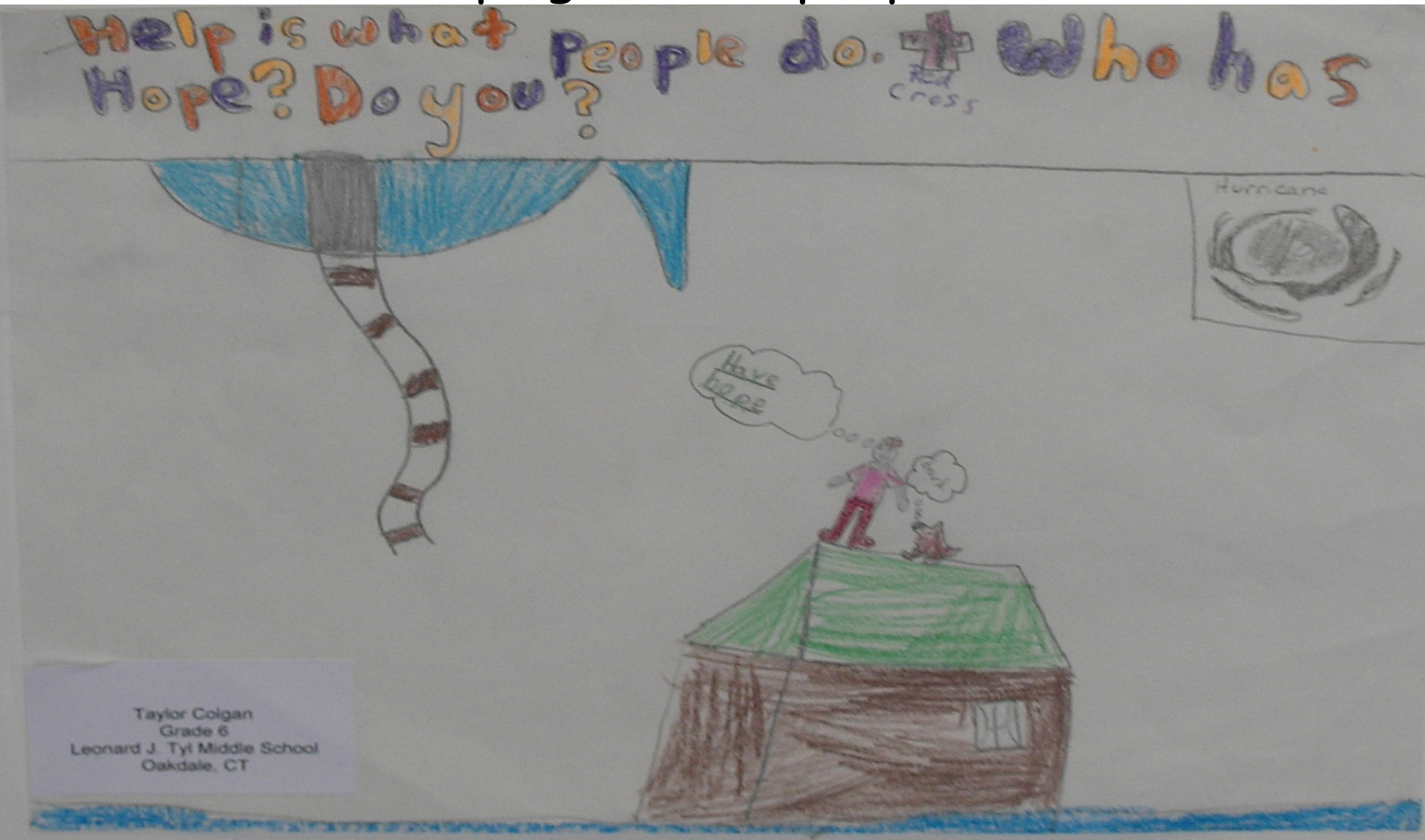
Valorie Ambro Grade 3, Waterbury "The World Today"

My 10 Words:

1. Beautiful
2. Grow
3. Flag
4. Space
5. Stars
6. Bright
7. Party
8. Flowers
9. Beauty
10. Shooting Stars



Taylor Colgan
Grade 6, Oakdale
"Helping is what people do"

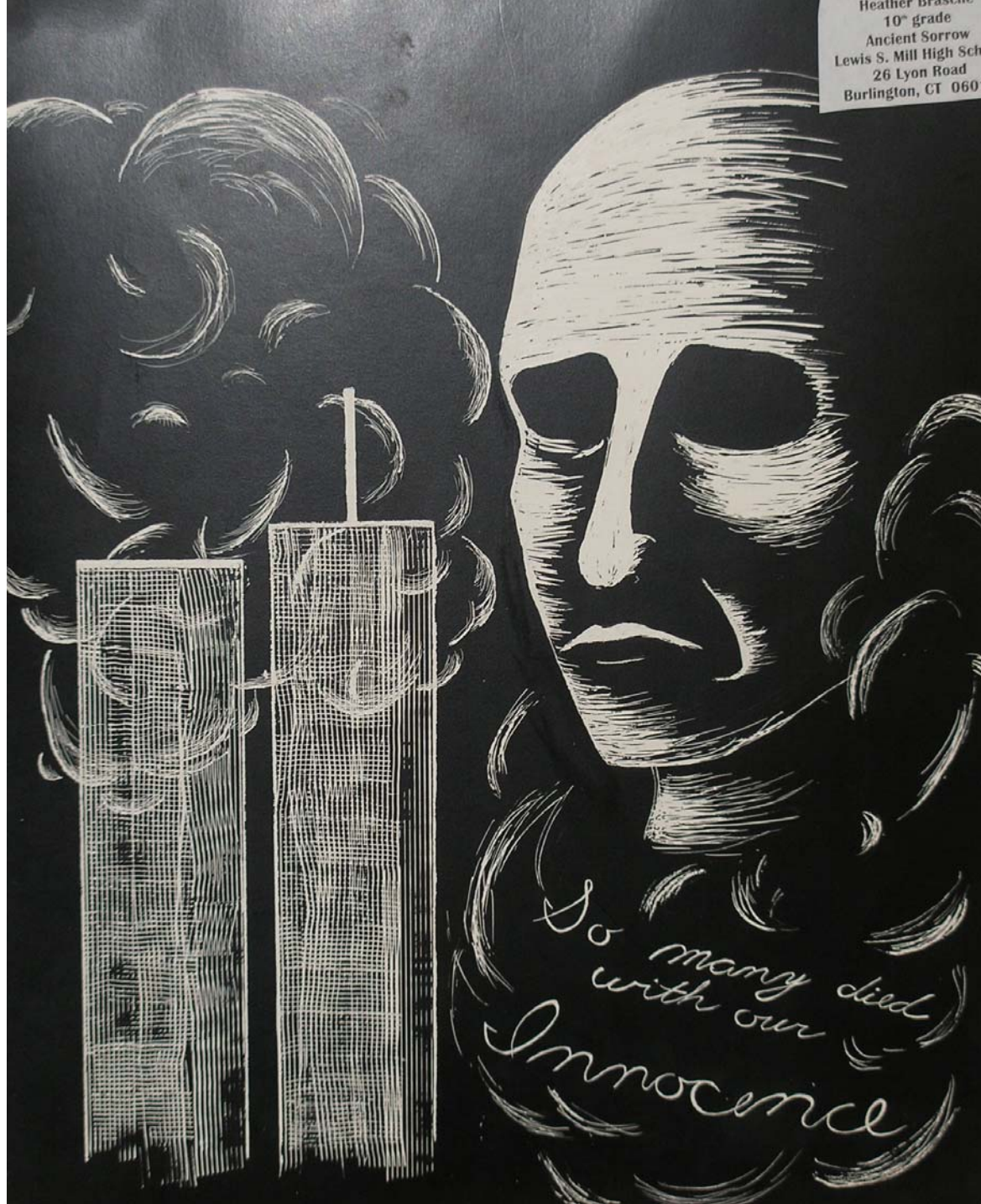


Taylor Colgan
Grade 6
Leonard J. Tyl Middle School
Oakdale, CT

Heather Brasche

Grade 10,
Burlington

"Ancient Sorrow"



Abbie Greene & Katrina Rodis
Grade 8, Farmington
"United We Stand"



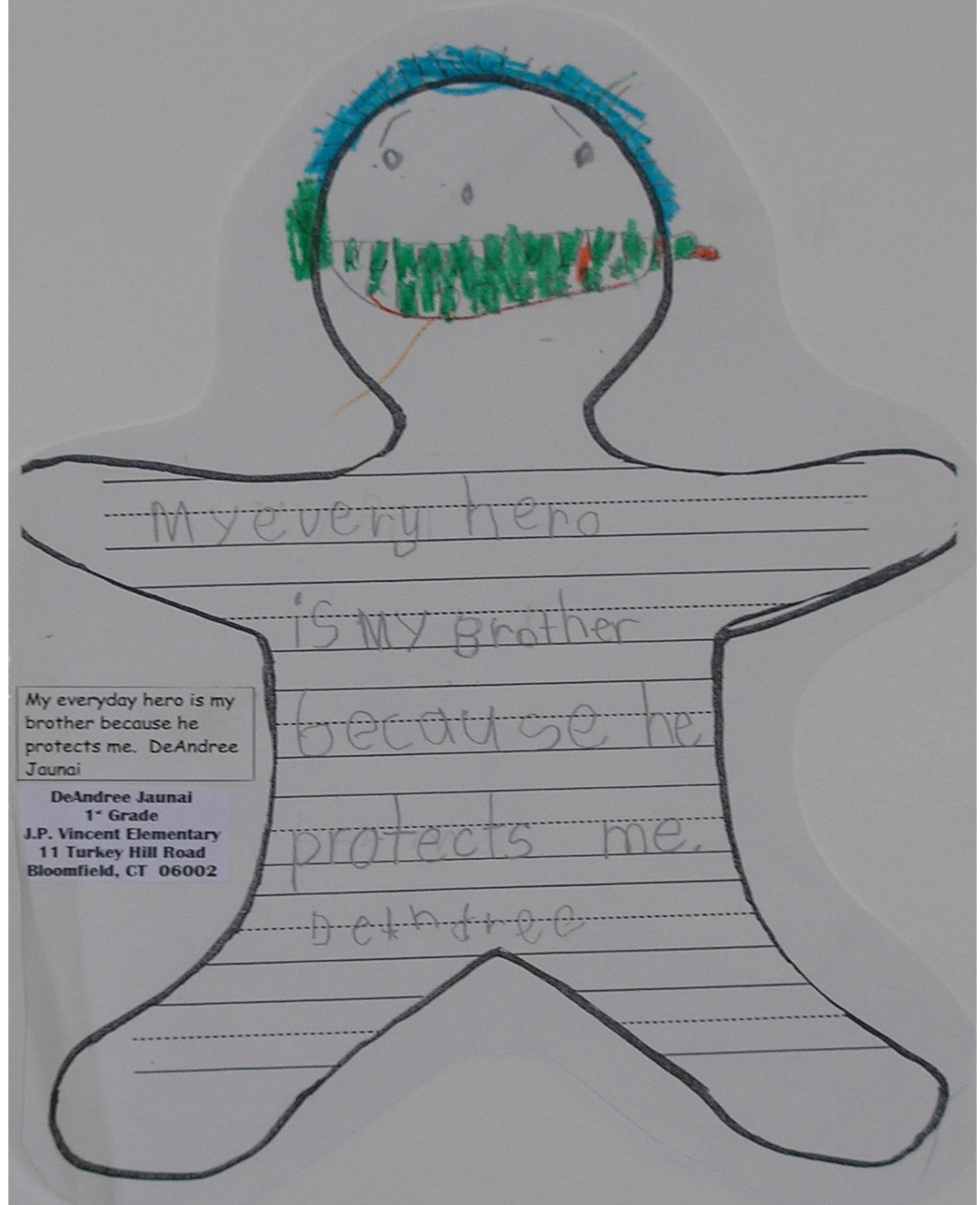
"There is conflict in the world, but we're still united."

DeAndree Jaunai

Grade 1,
Bloomfield

"My Hero"

"My everyday hero is my
brother because he
protects me."



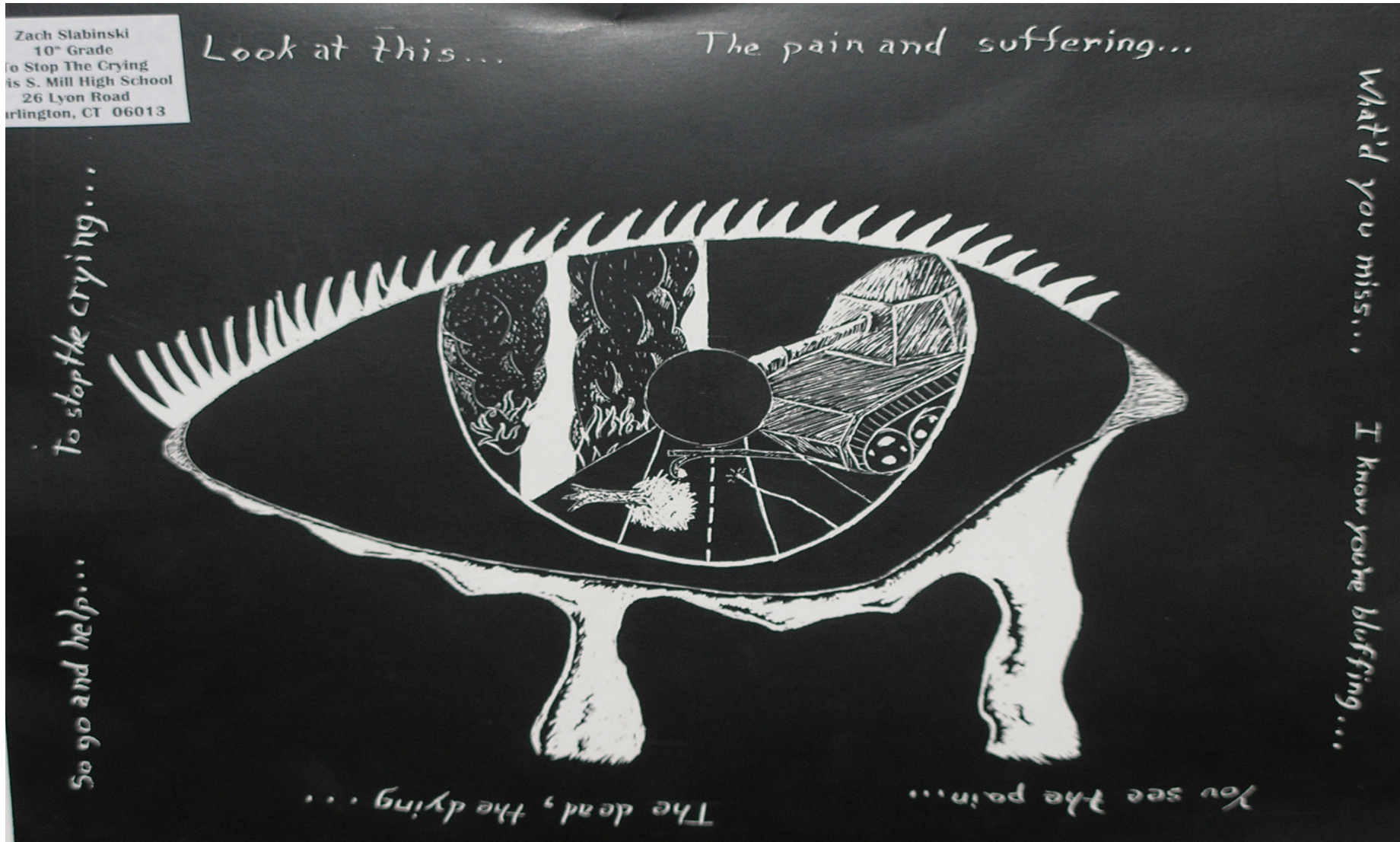
Kaley Berube

Grade 7, East Hartland

"How the world should be different before it's too late"



Zach Slabinski
Grade 10, Burlington
"To Stop the Crying"



Will Donahue

Grade 5, Weatogue

My 10 Words:

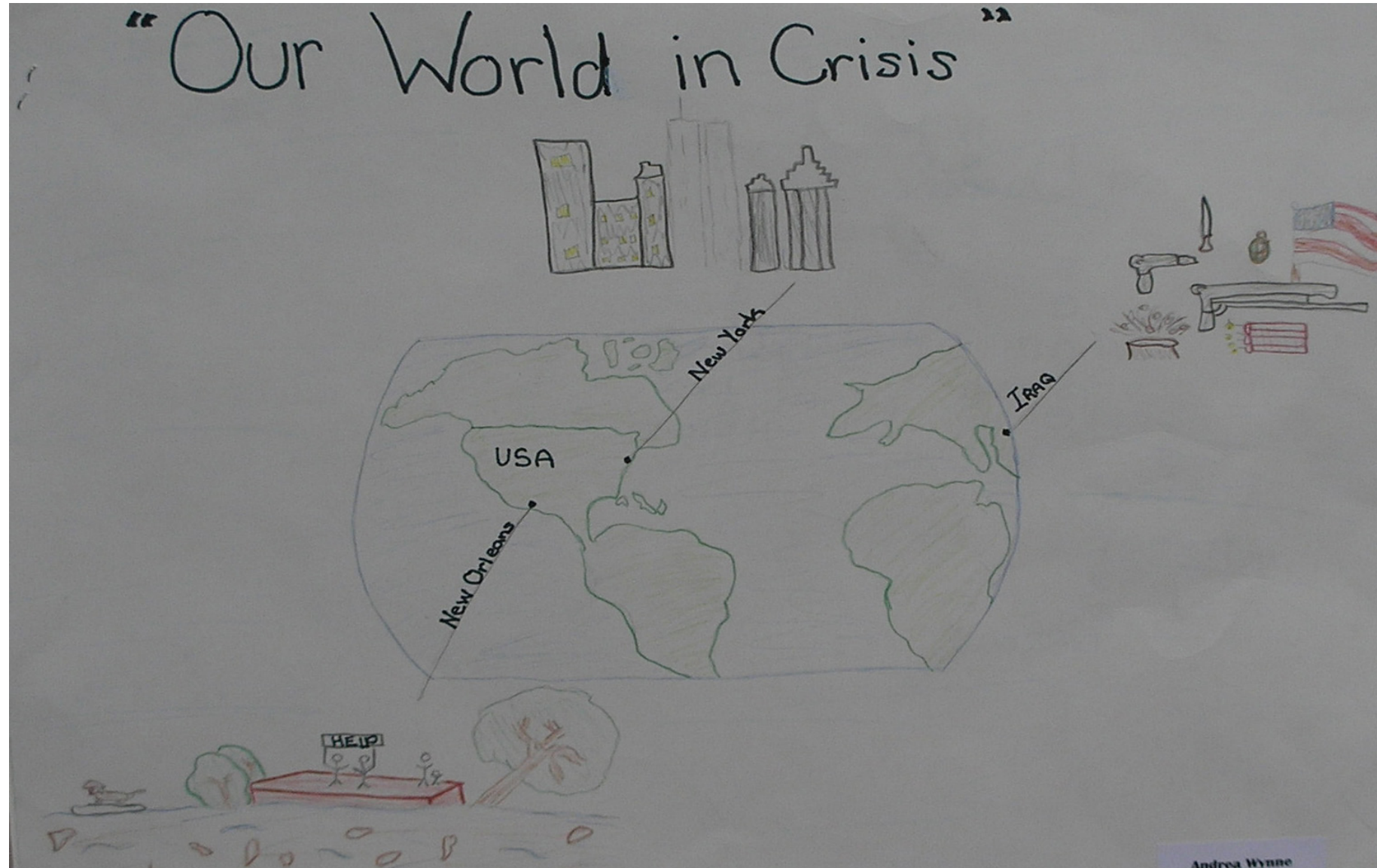
1. Deadly
2. Good
3. Bad
4. Hurricane
5. Survivors
6. Lucky
7. Heroes
8. Villians
9. Terrorists
10. Storm



Will Donahue
5th grade
Lattimer Lane School
Weatogue, CT 06089

Andrea Wynne
Grade 7, New Haven

"Our World in Crisis"

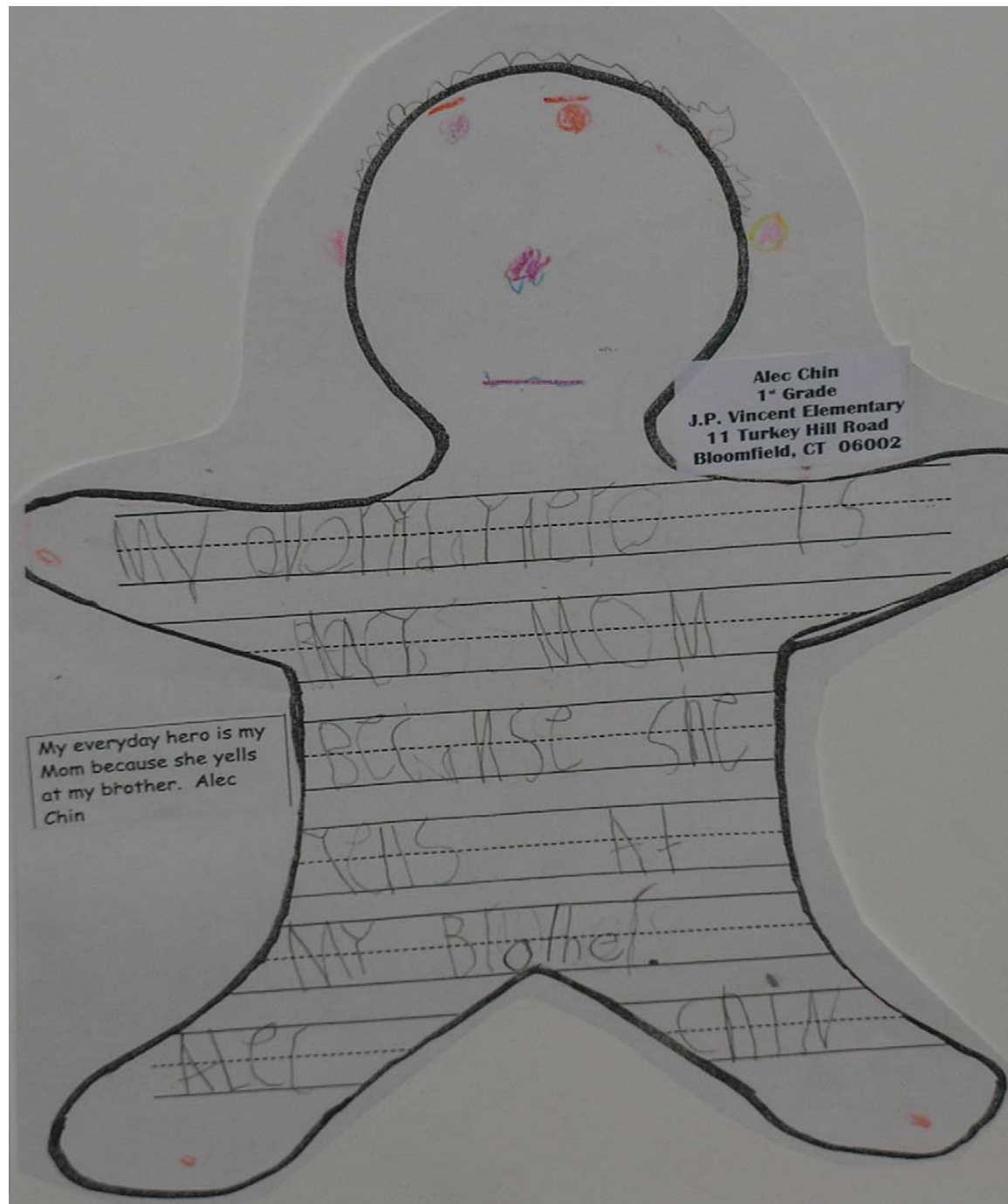


Alec Chin

Grade 1,
Bloomfield

"My Hero"

"My everyday hero
is my Mom because
she yells at my
brother."



Yesmien Nyhan
Grade 8, Orange
"Peace"



Gabriela Bochenczyk Grade 4, Fairfield

By Gabriela Bochenczyk

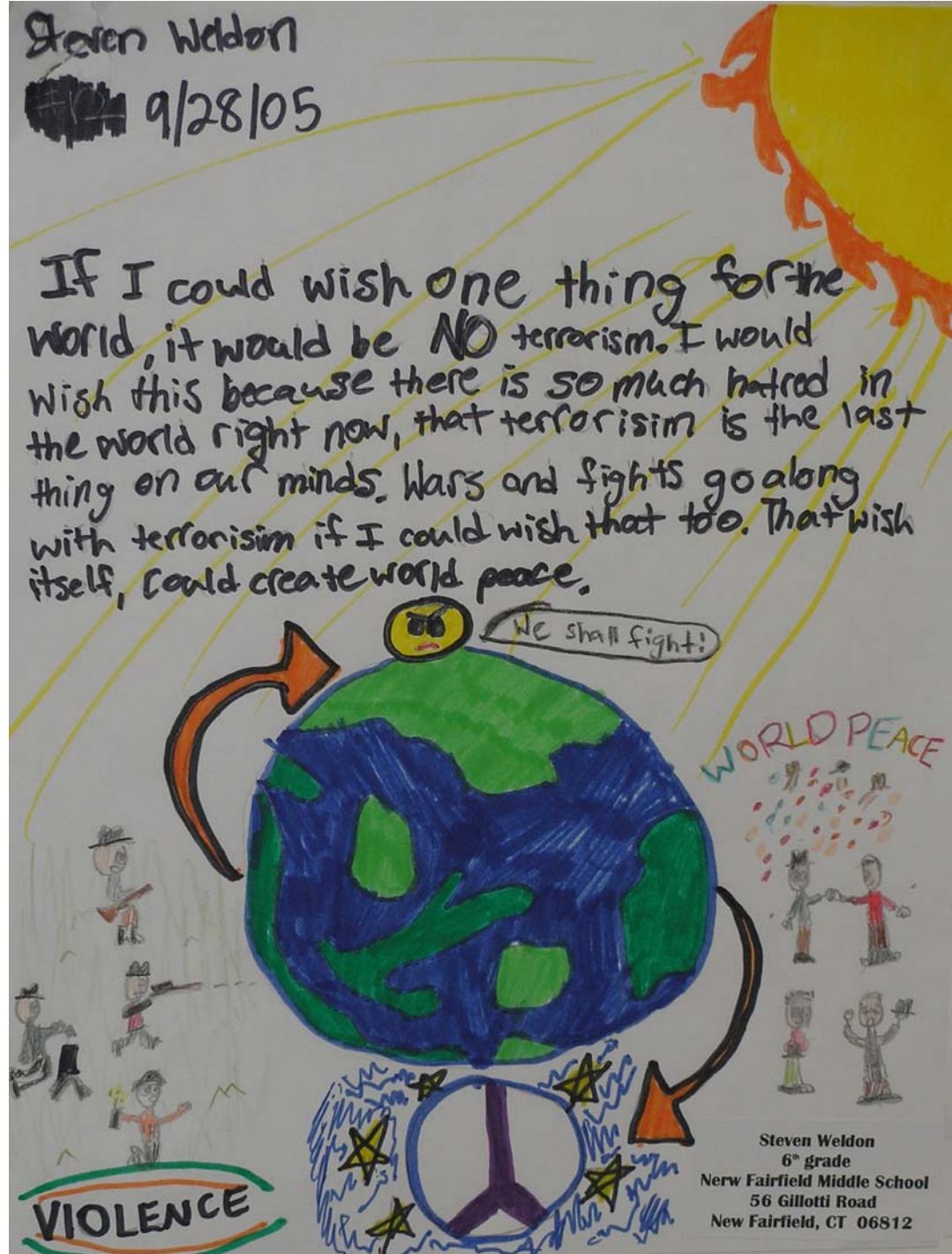
Gabriela Bochenczyk
4th grade
McKinley School
60 Thompson Street
Fairfield, CT 06825



Steven Weldon

Grade 6, New
Fairfield

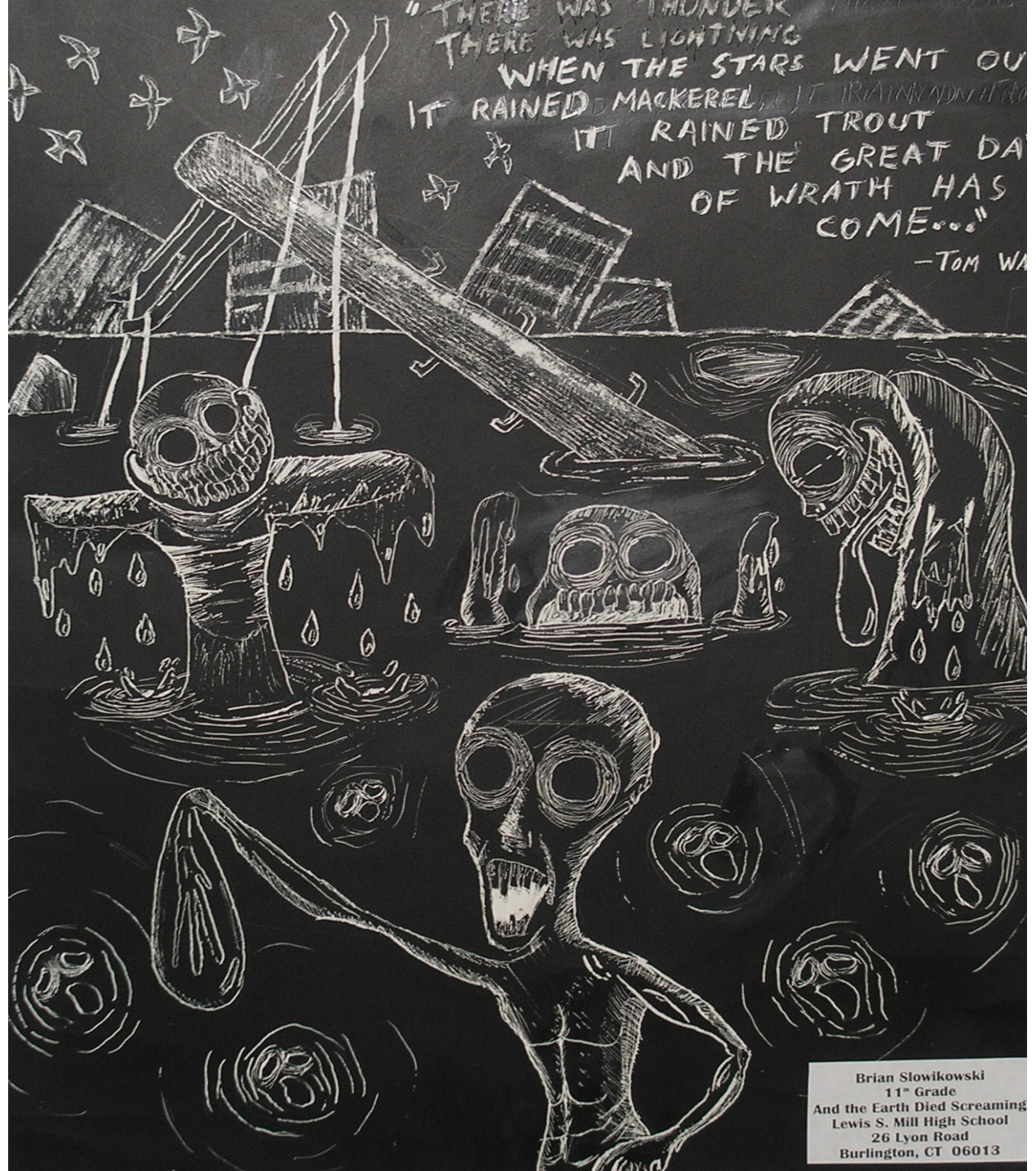
"My Wish for the
World"



Brian
Slowikowski

Grade 11,
Burlington

"And the
Earth died
screaming"



Olivia Buckholz
Grade 4, New Haven
"The World Today"

My 10 Words:

1. Polluted
2. Non-Peaceful
3. Wars
4. Evil
5. Not Fair
6. Beautiful
7. Trees
8. Grass
9. Flowers
10. Caring



Damian Hernandez
Grade 4, Manchester

White

Spanish

Black



Does It Matter?

Amber Boisclair Grade 9, Farmington

"9/11"

Amber Boisclair
9th Grade
Farmington High School
Farmington, Ct 06032



WHY DID SUCH GREAT BUILDINGS DISAPPEAR AS THEY DID

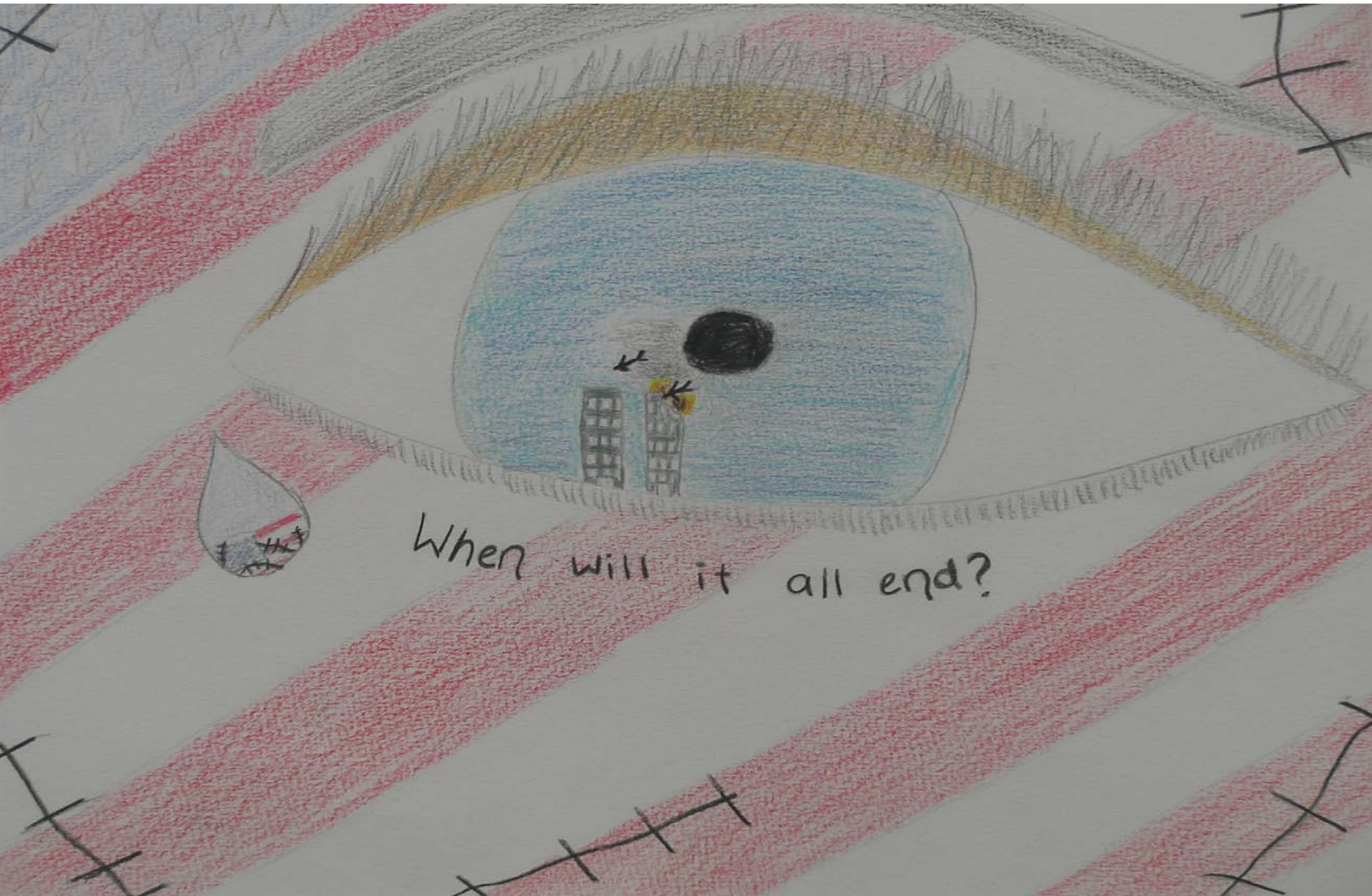
Amber Boisclair

Amber Boisclair

Amber Boisclair

Amber Boisclair

Sabina Pazaziar
Grade 10, Farmington



Megan DeLucco

Grade 11,
Burlington

"Broken Heart"



Megan DeLucco
11th Grade
Broken Heart
Lewis S. Mill High School
26 Lyon Road
Burlington, CT 06013

Sara Sierra
Grade 9, Waterbury

"Melting Pot Soup"

Melting Pot Soup

1/2 Cup African American
1/2 Cup Italian American
1/2 Cup Hispanic American
1/2 Cup French American
1/2 Cup Spanish American
1/2 Cup Chinese American
1/2 Cup Japanese American

Mix $3\frac{1}{2}$ cups of Culture

Add 1 teaspoon of kindness

Add $\frac{3}{4}$ tablespoon of joy

Add $1\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of understanding

Put all together in a bowl. Makes the best Melting Pot Soup.
Serves the whole world.



Reilly Price
Grade 9,
East
Hampton

"Taken by
Katrina"



Reilly Price
9th grade
Taken by Katrina
East Hampton High School
15 N. Maple Street
East Hampton, CT 06424

Maria Zula
Grade 5, New Haven
"Our World"

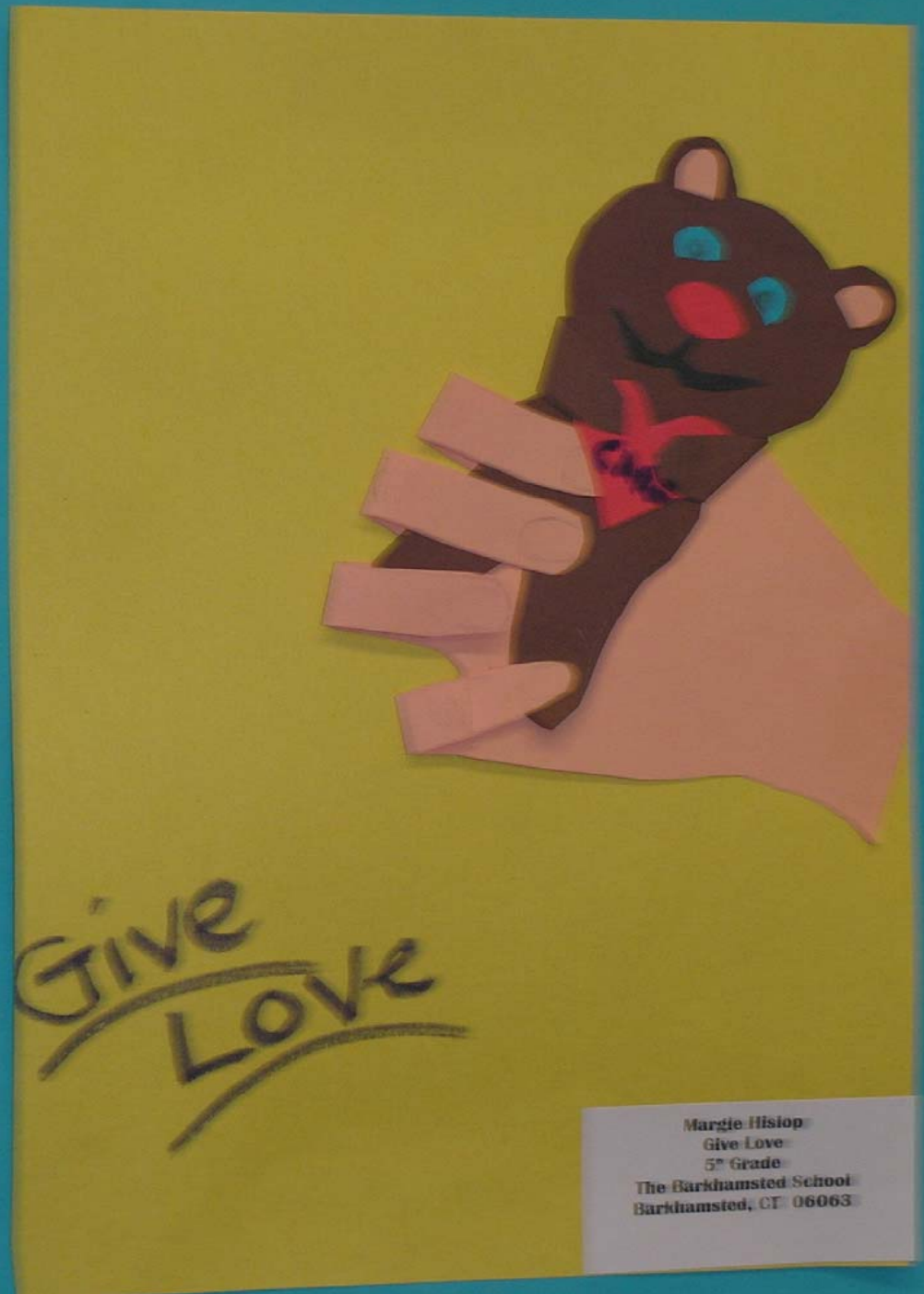


"I think the world is a kind place."

Margie Hislop

Grade 5,
Barkhamsted

"Give Love"





Nikki
Frazier

Grade 2
Vernon

"Letter to
Children of
Katrina"

"I am sorry
about what
happened to
your town. I
wish I could
help you
build new
homes."

Chelsea Drda
Grade 11, Burlington

"Where Were You When the World Stopped Turning?"

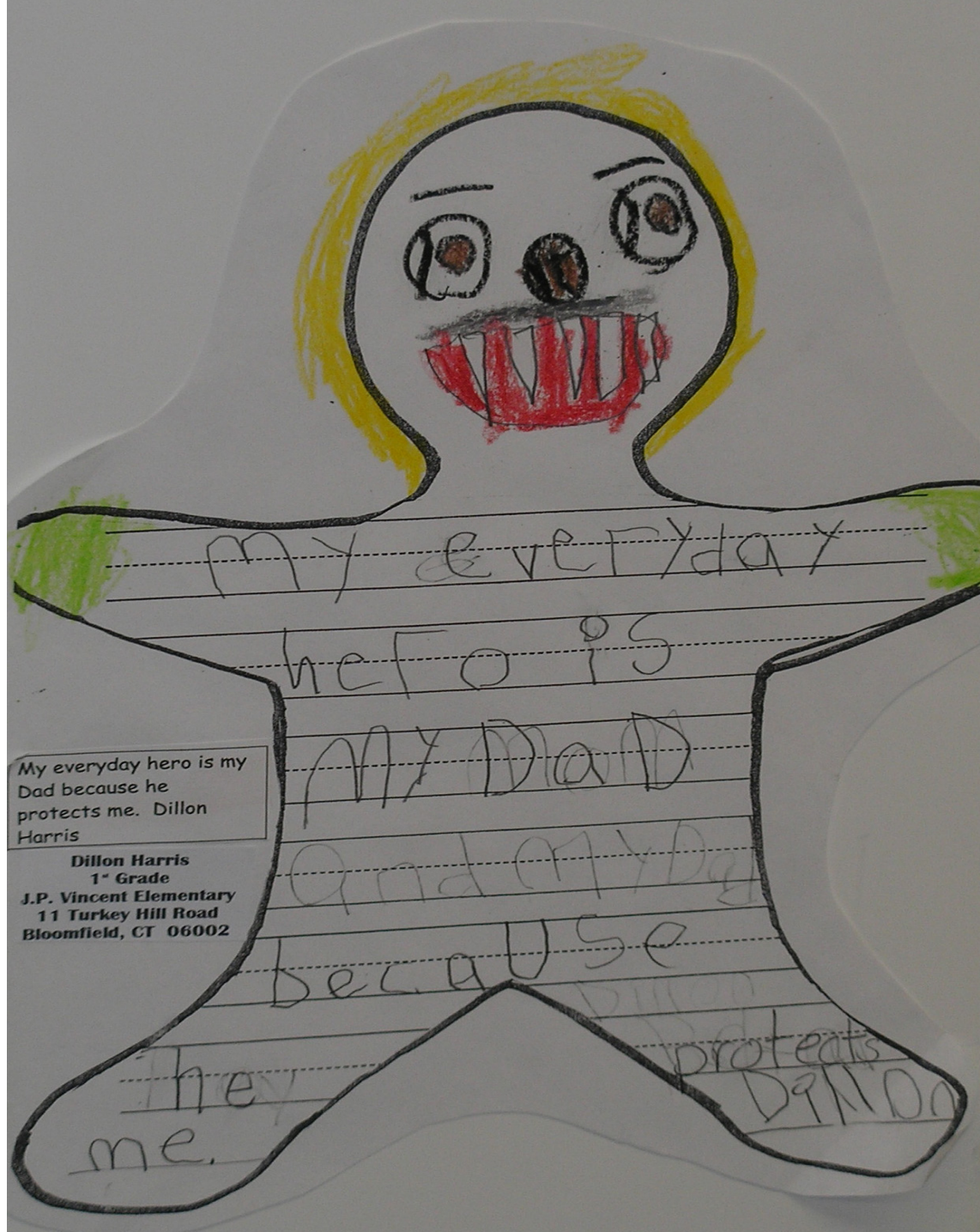


Dillon Harris

Grade 1,
Bloomfield

"My Hero"

"My everyday hero
is my Dad because
he protects me."



My everyday hero is my
Dad because he
protects me. Dillon
Harris

Dillon Harris
1st Grade
J.P. Vincent Elementary
11 Turkey Hill Road
Bloomfield, CT 06002

my everyday

hero is

my Dad

and my Dad

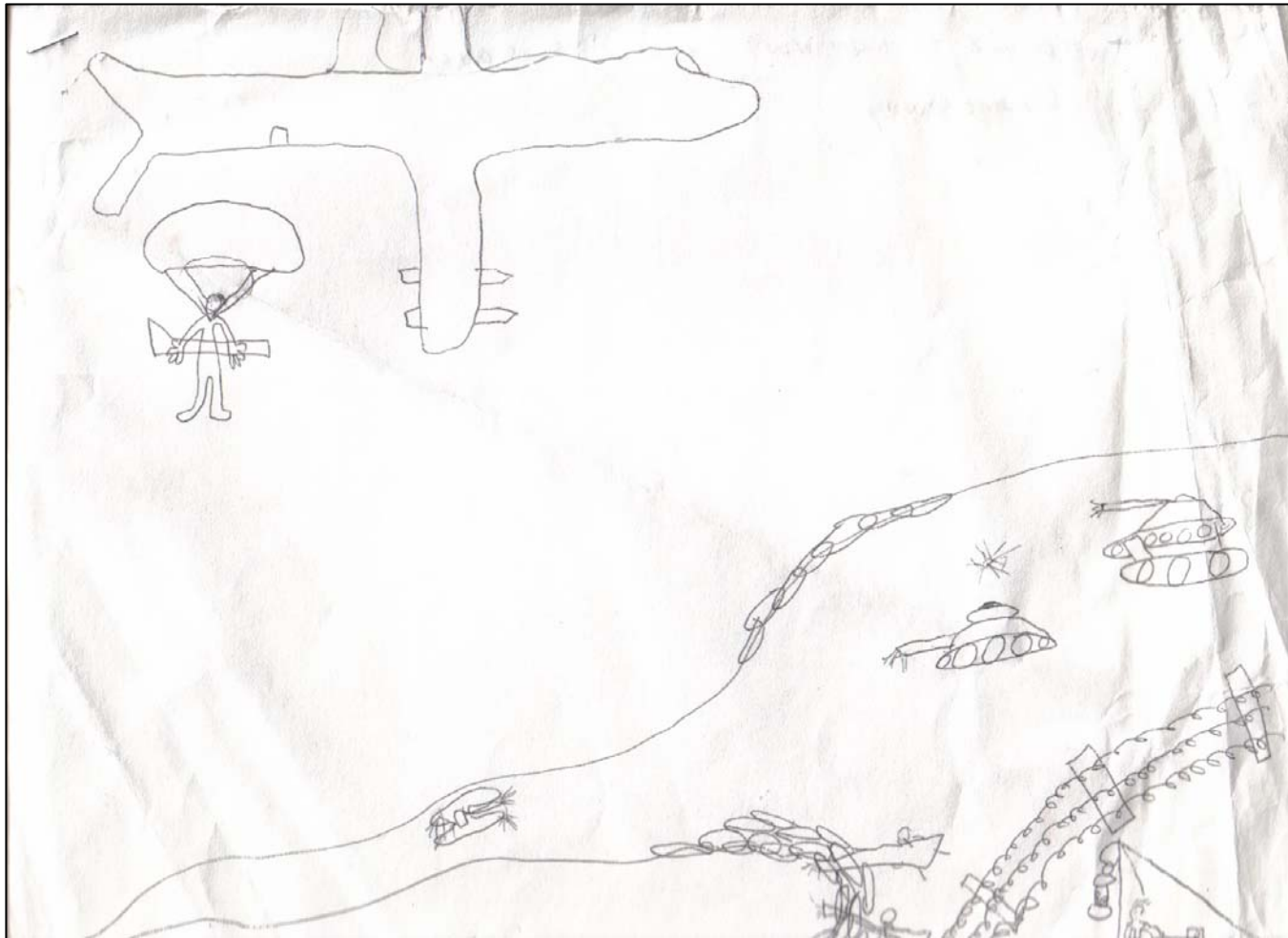
because

he
protects
me.

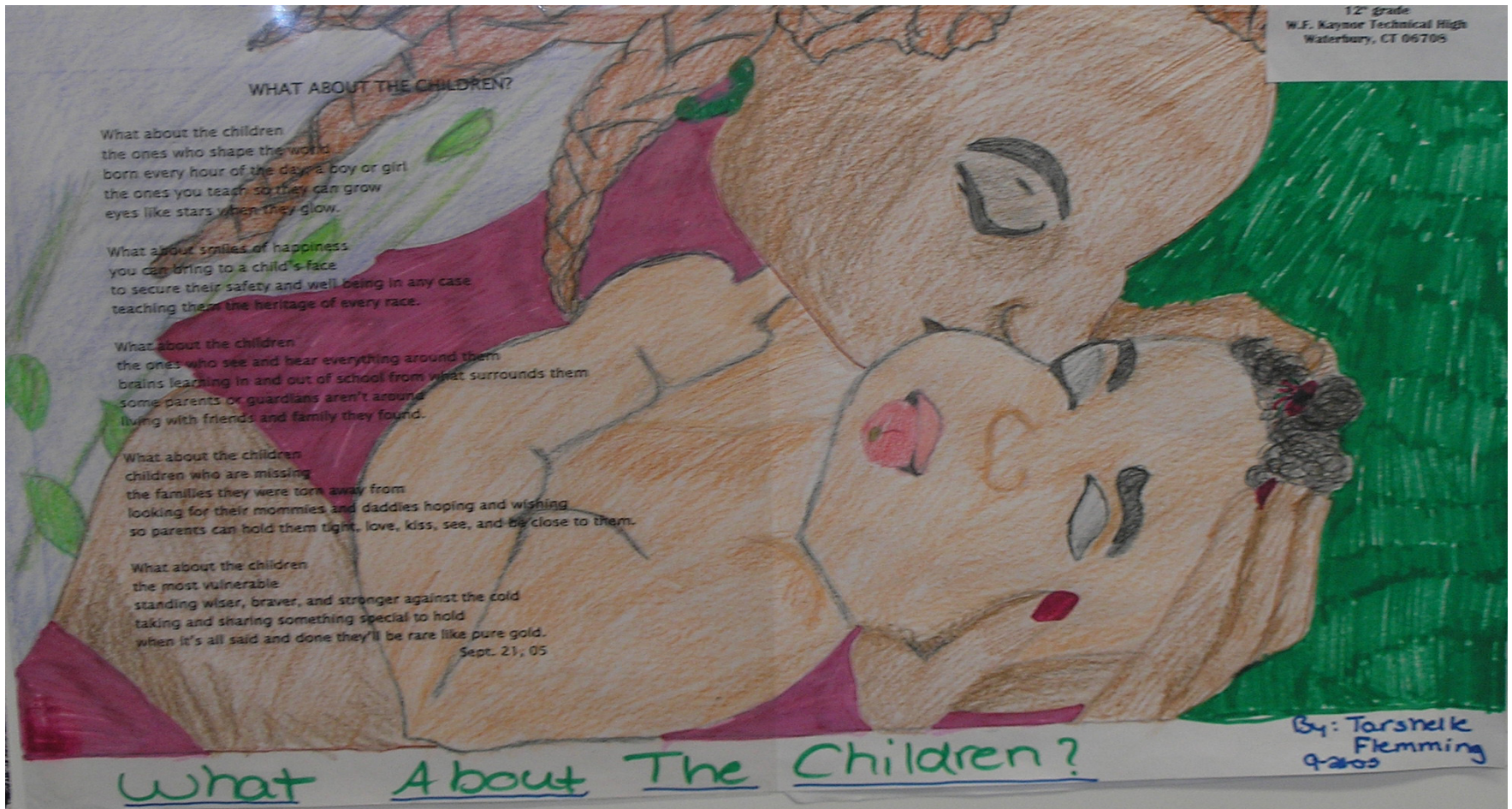
Dillon
protects
Dillon

George Stanley
Grade 6, Oakdale

"There are so many wars,
and this is one."



Tarshelle Flemming Grade 12, Waterbury



"What about the children
The ones who shape the world
Born every hour of the day; a boy or girl
The ones you teach so they can grow
Eyes like stars when they glow..."